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SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

SPIRITUALIZED;

OR

GOSPEL-LIGHT

BROUGHT OUT OF THE

TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM,

TO LET US MORE EASILY INTO THE GLORY OF

New-Testament Truths.

BY JOHN BUNYAN.

Ezekiel xliii. 10, 11.

The Son of Man shew the House to the House of Israel—shew them the Form of the House, and the Fashion thereof, and the Goings out thereof, and the Comings in thereof, and all the Forms thereof, and all the Ordinances thereof, and all the Laws thereof.

RE-PUBLISHED BY COBB AND DEMING

1824.



*Printed by Deming & Francis,
Wethersfield, Conn.*

TO THE
Christian Reader.

Courteous Reader,

I HAVE as thou by this little book mayest see adventured at this time, to do my endeavour to shew thee something of the Gospel Glory of Solomon's Temple; that is, of what it, with its utensils, was a type of; and as such, how instructing it was to our fathers, and also is to us their children. The which, that I might do the more distinctly, I have handled particulars one by one, to the number of threescore and ten; namely, all that of them I could call to mind, because, as I believe there was not one of them but had its signification, and so something profitable for us to know.

For though we are not now to worship God in those methods, or by such ordinances as once the old church did; yet to know their methods, and to understand the nature and signification of ordinances, when compared with the Gospel, may even now, when themselves (as to what they once enjoined on others) are dead, minister

light to us. And hence the New-Testament ministers, as the Apostles, made much use of Old Testament language, and ceremonial institutions, as to their signification, to help the faith of the godly in their preaching of the Gospel of Christ. •

I may say, that God did, in a manner, tie up the church of the Jews to types, figures and similitudes, I mean to be butted and bounded by them in all external parts of worship. Yea, not only the Levitical law and temple, but as it seems to me the whole land of Canaan, the place of their lot to dwell in, was to them a ceremonial or a figure. Their land was a type of heaven, (Heb. iii. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; Lev. xix. 23, ch. xxvi. 34, 35; Exod. xii. 15; Lev. vi. 17, ch. xxiii. 17;) their passage over Jordan into it, a similitude of our going to heaven by death. The fruit of their land was said to be uncircumcised, as being at their first entrance thither unclean; in which their land was also a figure of another thing, even as heaven was a type of sin and grace.

Again, The very land itself was said to keep sabbath, and so to rest a holy rest, even when she lay desolate, and not possessed of those to whom she was given for them to dwell in.

Yea, many of the features of the then church of God were set forth, as in figures and shadows, so by places, and things in that land.

1. In general, she is said to be beautiful as Tirzah, (Song. vi. 4,) and to be comely as Jerusalem.

In particular, her neck is compared to the tower of David, builded for an armoury, (Song. iv. 4,) her eyes to fish-pools of Heshbon, by the gate of Bethrabbim, (chap. vii. 4,) her nose is compared to the tower of Lebanon, which looked towards Damascus, (chap. iv. 1.) Yea the hair of her head is compared to a flock of goats, which come up from mount Gilead; and the smell of her garments to the smell of Lebanon, (ver. 11.)

Nor was this land altogether void of shadows, even of her Lord and Saviour. Hence he says of himself, I am the rose of Sharon, and the lilly of the valleys, (Song. ii. 1.) Also she, his beloved, saith of him, his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars, (chap. v. 15.) What shall I say? The two cities, Sion and Jerusalem, were such as sometimes set forth the two churches, (Gal. iv,) the true and the false, and their seed Isaac and Ishmael.

I might also here shew you, that even the gifts and graces of the true church were set forth by the spices, nuts, grapes, and pomegranates that the land of Canaan brought forth. Yea, that hell itself was set forth by the valley of the sons of Hinmon, and Tophet, places in

this country. Indeed, the whole in a manner was typical and a figurative thing.

But I have in the ensuing discourse confined myself to the temple, that immediate place of God's worship ; of whose utensils in particular as I have said, I have spoken, though to each with what brevity I could ; for that none of them are without a spiritual, and so profitable signification to us.

And here we may behold much of the richness of the wisdom and grace of God ; namely, that he, even in the very place of worship of old, should ordain visible forms and representations for the worshippers to learn them to worship him by. Yea, the temple itself was, as to this, to them a good instruction.

But in my thus saying, I give no encouragement to any now, to fetch out their own fancies, figures, or similitudes to worship God by. What God provided to be an help to the weakness of his people of old, was one thing, and what they invented without his commandment was another. For though they had his blessing when they worshipped him with such types, shadows, and figures, which he had enjoined on them for that purpose, (Exod. xxxii. 35 ; 2 Kings xvii. 16, 17, 18 ; Acts vii. 38—43,) yet he sorely punished and plagued them when they would add to these, inventions of their own. Yea, he

in the very act of instituting their way of worshipping him, forbade their giving, in any thing, way to their own humors or fancies, and bound them strictly to the orders of Heaven.

Look, said God to Moses, their first great legislator, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount, (Exod. xxv. 40 ; Heb. viii. 5.)

Nor doth our Apostle but take the same measures, when he saith, if any man thinketh himself a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you, are the commandments of the Lord, 1 Cor. xiv. 37.

When Solomon also was to build this temple for the worship of God, though he was wiser than all men, yet God trusted neither to his wisdom nor memory, nor to any immediate dictates from heaven to him, how he would have him build it. No, he was to receive the whole platform thereof in writing, by the inspiration of God. Nor would God give this platform of the temple, and of its utensils, immediately to the wise man, lest perhaps by others, his wisdom should be idolized, or that some should object that the whole fashion thereof proceeded of his fancy, only he made pretensions of divine revelation as a cover for his doings.

Therefore, I say, not to him, but to his father

David, was the whole pattern of it given from heaven ; and so by David to Solomon, his son, in writing. Then David, says the text, gave to Solomon his son, the pattern of the porch, and the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper-chambers thereof, and of the inner parlors thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat, 1 Chron. xxviii. 11. And the pattern of all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the Lord, and of all the chambers round about, and of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things, (ver. 12.) Also for the courses of the priests and Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of the Lord, and for all the vessels of service in the house of the Lord, (ver. 13.)

Yea, moreover, he had from heaven, or by divine revelation, what the candlesticks were to be made of, and also how much was to go to each ; the same order and commandment he also gave for the making of the tables, flesh-hooks, cups, basons, altar of incense ; with the pattern for the chariot of the cherubims, &c. (ver. 14—19.) All this, said David, the Lord made me understand by writing by his hand upon me, even all the work of this pattern, (ver. 20.) So I say, he gave David the pattern of the temple ; so David gave Solomon the pattern of the temple, and according to that pattern did Solomon build the temple, and no otherwise.

True, all these were but figures, patterns, and shadows of things in heaven, and not the very image of the things, (Heb. viii. 5, ch. ix. 8, 9, 23, ch. x. i.) But, as it was said afore, if God was so circumspect and exact in these, as not to leave any thing to the dictates of the godly and wisest of men, what, can we suppose he will now admit of the wit and contrivance of men in those things that are, in comparison to them, the heavenly things themselves ?

It is also to be concluded, that since those shadows of things in the heavens, are already committed by God to sacred story, and since that sacred story is said to be able to make the man of God so perfect in all things, (2 Tim. iii. 15—17,) it is a duty in us to leave off to lean to common understanding, and to inquire and search out by that very holy writ, and nought else, by what and how we should worship God. David was for inquiring in his temple, (Psalm xxvii. 4.)

And although the old church way of worship is laid aside to us in New Testament times, yet since those very ordinances were figures of things, and methods of worship now, we may, yea, we ought to search out the spiritual meaning of them, because they serve to confirm and illustrate matters to our understandings. Yea, they shew us the more exactly how the New and Old Testament, as to the spiritualness of the

worship, was as one and the same ; only the Old was clouded with shadows, but ours is with more open face.

Features to the life, as we say, set out by a picture, do excellently shew the skill of the artist. The Old and New Testament had the shadow, nor have we but the very image ; both then are but emblems of what is yet behind. We may find our gospel clouded in their ceremonies, and our spiritual worship set out somewhat by their carnal ordinances.

Now because, as I said, there lies, as wrapt up in a mantle, much of the glory of our gospel matters in this temple which Solomon builded, therefore I have made, as well as I could, by comparing spiritual things with temporal, this book upon this subject.

I dare not presume to say, that I know I have hit right in every thing, but this I can say, I have endeavoured so to do. True, I have not for these things, fished in other men's waters, my bible and concordance are my only library in my writings. Wherefore, courteous reader, if thou findest any thing, either in word or matter, that thou shalt judge doth vary from God's truth, let it be counted no man's else but mine. Pray God also to pardon my fault ; do thou also lovingly pass it by, and receive what thou findest will do thee good.

And for thy easier finding of any particular, I have in the close of the book set before thee the chief heads, one by one ; and also in what page of the book thou mayest find them.

Thy servant in the Gospel,

JOHN BUNYAN.



Solomon's Temple

SPIRITUALIZED

CHAPTER I.

Where the Temple was built.

THE temple was built at Jerusalem, on Mount Moriah, in the threshing floor of Ornan, the Jebusite, whereabout Abraham offered up Isaac ; where David met the angel of the Lord, when he came with his drawn sword in his hand to cut off the people at Jerusalem, for the sin which David committed in his disorderly numbering the people, Gen. xxii. 3, 4, 5 ; 1 Chr. xxi. 15 ; chap. xxii. 1, 2 Chr. iii. 1.

There Abraham received his Isaac from the dead. There the Lord was intreated by David to take away the plague, and to return to Israel again in mercy ; from whence also David gathered, that there God's temple must be built. This, said he, is the house of the Lord God, and this is the altar of the burnt-offering for Israel, 1 Chron. xxi. 28, chap. xxii. 1, chap. iii. 1.

This mount Moriah, therefore, was a type of the Son of God, the mountain of the Lord's house, the rock against which the gates of hell cannot prevail.

CHAPTER II.

Who built the Temple.

THE temple was built by Solomon, a man peaceable and quiet; and that in name, by nature, and in government; for so God had before told David, namely, that such an one the builder of the temple should be.

Behold, saith he, a son shall be born unto thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about; for his name shall be called Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days: He shall build an house for my name, and he shall be my son, and I will be his father, 1 Chron. xxii. 9, 10; Psalm lxii. 1 to 4.

As therefore mount Moriah was a type of Christ, as the foundation; so Solomon was a type of him, as the builder of his church. The mount was signal, for that, thereon the Lord God, before Abraham and David, did display his mercy. And as Solomon built this temple, so Christ doth build his house. Yea, he shall build the everlasting temple, and he shall bear the glory, Heb. iii. 3, 4; Zech. vi. 12, 13.

And in that Solomon was called peaceable, it was to shew, with what peaceable doctrine and ways Christ's house and church should be built, Isa. ix. 6 ; Micah vii. 2, 3, 4.

CHAPTER III.

How the Temple was built.

THE temple was built, not merely by the dictates of Solomon, though he was wiser than Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Darda, and all men, 1 Kings iv. 31, but it was built by rules, prescribed by, or in a written word ; and, as so delivered to him by his father David.

For when David gave to Solomon, his son, a charge to build the temple of God, with that charge he gave him also the pattern of all in writing ; even a pattern of the porch, house, chambers, treasuries, parlors, &c. and of the place for the mercy-seat ; which pattern David had of God : nor would God trust his memory with it. The Lord made me, said he, understand in writing, by his hand upon me, even all the work of this pattern. Thus therefore, David gave to Solomon his son, the pattern of all ; and thus Solomon built the house of God. See 1 Chron. xxviii. 9 to 20.

And answerable to this, Christ Jesus, the builder of his own house, whose house are we, doth build his holy habitation for him to dwell in ;

even according to the commandment of God the Father. For, saith he, I have not spoken of myself, but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment what I should speak. And hence it is said, God gave him the revelation. And again, that he took the book out of the hand of him that sat on the throne ; and so acted as to the building up of his church, John xii. 49 ; Rev. i. 1. chap. v. 7.

CHAPTER IV.

Of what the Temple was built.

THE materials with which the temple was built, were such as were in their own nature common to that which was left behind ; things that naturally were not fit to be laid without art, to be laid on so holy a house. And this shews, that those of whom Christ Jesus designs to build his church, are by nature no better than others. But as the trees and stones of which the temple was built, were first hewed and squared before they were fit to be laid in that house ; so sinners, of which the church is to be built, must first be fitted by the word and doctrine, and then fitly laid in their place in the church.

For though, as to the nature, there is no difference betwixt those made use of to build God's house with, yet by grace they differ from others ; even as those trees and stones that are

hewed and squared for building, by art, are made to differ from those which abide in the wood or pit.

The Lord Jesus, therefore, while he seeketh materials wherewith to build his house, he findeth them the clay of the same lump that he rejecteth and leaves behind, St. John v. 40. (Are we better than they? No, in no way, Rom. iii. chap. ix. Nay, I think, if any be best, it is they which are left behind.) He came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance, Mark ii. 17. And indeed, in this he doth shew both the greatness of his grace and workmanship; his grace, in taking such, and his workmanship, in that he makes them meet for his holy habitation.

This the current of scripture maketh manifest. Wherefore it is needless now to cite particulars; only we must remember, that none are laid in this building as they come out of the wood or pit; but as they first pass under the hand and rule of this great builder of the temple of God.

CHAPTER V.

Who was to fell those Trees, and to dig those Stones with which Solomon built the Temple.

As the trees were to be felled, and stones to be digged, so there was for that matter select workmen appointed.

These were not of the sons of Jacob, nor of the house of Israel ; they were the servants of Hiram, king of Tyre, and the Gibeonites, namely, their children, that made a league with Joshua, in the day that God gave the land of Canaan to his people, Joshua ix. 22 to 28 ; 1 Kings v. ; 2 Chron. xxvii. 28.

And these were types of our gospel-ministers, who are the men appointed by Jesus Christ to make sinners, by their preaching, meet for the house of God. Wherefore, as he was famous of old, who was strong to lift up his axe upon the thick boughs, to square wood for the building of the temple ; so a minister of the gospel now is also famous, if much used by Christ for the converting of sinners to himself, that he may build him a temple with them, Psal. vii. 4, 5, 6 ; Rom. xvi. 7.

But why, may some say, do you make so homely a comparison ?

I answer, because I believe it is true ; for it is grace, not gifts, that makes us sons and the beloved of God. Gifts make a minister ; and as a minister, one is but a servant to hew wood and draw water for the house of my God. Yea, Paul, though a son, yet counted himself not a son, but a servant, purely as he was a minister, a servant of God, a servant of Christ, and a servant of the church, and your servant for Jesus' sake, Tit. i. 1 ; Rom. i. 1 ; 2 Cor. iv. 5.

A man then is a son, as he is begotten and born of God to himself, and a servant, as he is

gifted for work in the house of his father ; and though it is truth, the servant may be a son, yet he is not a son, because he is a servant. Nor doth it follow, that because all sons may be servants, therefore all servants are sons : no, all the servants of God are not sons ; and therefore, when time shall come, he that is only a servant here shall certainly be put out of the house, even out of that house himself did help to build. The servant abideth not in the house for ever : the servant that is he that is only so, Ezek. xlvi. 16, 17 ; John viii. 35.

So then, as a son, thou art an Israelite, as a servant, a Gibeonite. The consideration of this made Paul start ; he knew that gifts made him not a son, 1 Cor. xii. 28, to 31. chap. xiii. 1, 2.

The sum then is, a man may be a servant and a son ; a servant, as he is employed by Christ in his house for the good of others ; and a son, as he is a partaker of the grace of adoption ; but all servants are not sons. And let this be a caution and a call to ministers to do all acts of service for God, and in his house, with reverence and godly fear. And with all humility, let us desire to be partakers ourselves of that grace we preach to others, 1 Cor. ix. 35.

This is a great saying, and written perhaps to keep ministers humble : And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your ploughman and your vine-dressers, Isa. lxi. 5.

To be a ploughman here is to be a preacher ;

and to be a vine-dresser here is to be a preacher, Luke ix. 59, to 62. 1 Cor. ix. 27. Matt. ii. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8. chap. xxi. 28. 1 Cor. ix. 7.

And if he does his work willingly, he has a reward ; if not, a disposition of the gospel is committed to him, and that's all, 1 Cor. ix. 17.

CHAPTER. VI.

In what condition the Timber and Stones were, when brought to be laid in the Building of the Temple.

The timber and stones with which the temple was built, were squared and hewed in the wood or pit ; and so there made every way fit for the work, even before they were brought to the place where the house should be set up : So that there was neither hammer nor axe, nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was building, 1 Kings vi. 7.

And this shews, as was said before, that the materials of which the house was built, were (before the hand of the workman touched them,) as unfit to be laid in the building, as were those that were left behind ; consequently that themselves, none otherwise, but by the art of others, were made fit to be laid in this building.

To this our New-Testament temple answers : For those of the sons of Adam who are counted worthy to be laid in this building, are not by

nature, but by grace, made meet for it ; not by their own wisdom, but by the word of God. Hence he saith, I have hewed them by the prophets. And again, ministers are called God's builders and labourers even as to this work, Hos. vi. 5 ; 1 Cor. iii. 10 ; 2 Cor. vi. 1 ; Col. i. 28.

No man will lay trees as they come from the wood, for beams and rafters in his house ; nor stones, as digged in the walls. No, the trees must be hewed and squared, and the stones sawn and made fit, and so be laid in the house.

Yea, they must be so sawn, and so squared, that in coupling they may be joined exactly ; else the building will not be good, nor the workman have credit of his doings.

Hence our gospel-church, of which the temple was a type, is said to be fitly formed ; and that there is a fit supply of every joint for the securing of the whole, 1 Pet. iii. 5 ; Eph. iv. 20, 21. chap. iv. 16 ; Col. ii. 19.

As they therefore build like children that build from the wood, as it comes from the wood or forests, and with stones, as they come from the pit ; even so do they who pretend to build God an house of unconverted sinners, unhewed, unsquared, unpolished. Wherefore, God's workmen, according to God's advice, prepare their work without, and make it fit for themselves in the field, and afterwards build the house, Prov. xxiv. 27.

Let ministers therefore look to this, and take heed, lest instead of making their notions stoop

to the word, they make the scriptures stoop to their notions.

CHAPTER VII.

Of the Foundation of the Temple.

THE foundation of the temple is that upon which it stood ; and it was two-fold : First, The hill Moriah, and then those great stones upon which it was erected. This hill Moriah, as was said before, did more properly typify Christ. Hence Moriah is called the mountain of the house, it being the rock upon which it was built. These great stones, called foundation-stones, were types of the prophets and apostles, Matt. xvi. 18 ; Ephes. ii. 20, 21 ; Heb. xi. 10.

Wherefore these stones were stones of the biggest size, stones of eight cubits, and stones of ten cubits, 1 Kings vii. 10.

Now, as the temple had this double foundation, so we must consider it respectively and distinctly ; for Christ is the foundation one way, the prophets and apostles, a foundation another. Christ is the foundation personally and meritoriously, but the prophets and apostles by doctrine, ministerially. The church then, which is God's New-Testament temple, as it is said to be built on Christ the foundation ; so none other is the foundation but he, 1 Cor. iii. 11, 12. But as

it is said to be built upon the apostles, so it is said to have twelve foundations, and must have none but they, Rev. xxi. 14.

What is it then? Why, we must be built upon Christ, as he is our priest, sacrifice, prophet, king and advocate; and upon the other, as they are infallible instructors and preachers of him; not that any may be an apostle, that so shall esteem of himself, nor that any other doctrine be administered, but what is the doctrine of the twelve; for they are set forth as the chief and last. These are also they, as Moses, which are to look over all the building, and to see that all in this house be done according to the pattern shewed to them in the mount, Exod. xxxix. 43; John xx. 21, 22, 23; 1 Cor. iii. 9, chap. iv. 9.

Let us then keep these distinctions clear, and not put an apostle in the room of Christ, nor Christ in the place of one of those apostles. Let none but Christ be the high-priest and sacrifice for your souls to God; and none but that doctrine which is apostolical, be to you as the mouth of Christ, for instruction to prepare you, and to prepare materials for this temple of God, and to build upon them this foundation.

CHAPTER VIII.

Of the Richness of the Stones which were laid for the Foundation of the Temple.

THESE foundation stones, as they were great

so they were costly stones ; though as I said, of themselves, of no more worth than any of their nature that were left behind. Their costliness therefore lay in those additions which they received from the king's charge.

First, In that labor which was bestowed upon them in sawing, squaring and carving : for the servants, as they were cunning at this work, so they bestowed much of their art and labor upon them, by which they put them into excellent form, and added to their bigness, glory and beauty, fit for stones upon which so goodly a fabric was to be built.

Secondly, These stones, as they were thus wrought within and without, so, as it seems to me, they were inlaid with other stones more precious than themselves : inlaid, I say, with stones of divers colours. According as it is written : I will lay the foundation with sapphires, Isa. liv. 11. Not that the foundations were sapphires, but they were laid, inlaid with them ; or as he saith in another place, they were adorned with goodly stones and gifts, Luke xxi. 5.

This is still more amplified, where it is written of the New Jerusalem (which is still the testament-church on earth, and so the same in substance with what is now ;) 'The foundations of the wall of the city, said he, were garnished with all manner of precious stones, Rev. xxi. 19. True, these there are called the foundations of the wall of the city, but it has respect to the matter in hand ; for that which is be-

fore called a temple, for its comparative smallness, is here called a city, for, or because of its great increase; and both the foundations of the wall of the city, as well as of the temple, are the twelve apostles of the Lamb, Rev. xxi. 14.

For these carvings and inlayings, with all other beautifications, were types of the extraordinary gifts and graces of the apostles. Hence the apostle calls such gifts signs of apostleship, Rom. xv. 19; 2 Cor. xii. 21; Heb. ii. 4. For as the foundation stones of the temple were thus garnished, so were the apostles beautified with a call, gifts and graces peculiar to themselves. Hence he says, first, apostles; for that they were first and chief in the church of Christ, 1 Cor. xii. 28.

Nor were these stones only laid for a foundation; for the temple, the great court, the inner court, as also the porch of the temple, had round about them, three rows of those stones for their foundation, 1 Kings vii. 1.

Signifying, as seems to me, that the more outward and external part, as well as that more internal worship to be performed to God, should be grounded upon apostolical doctrine and appointments, 1 Cor. iii. 10, 11, 12; 2 Thess. ii. 15, chap. iii. 6; Heb. vi. 1, 2, 3, 4.

CHAPTER IX.

Which Way the Face or Front of the Temple stood.

1. THE temple was built with its face or front towards the east, and that perhaps, because the Glory of the God of Israel was to come from the way of the east into it, Ezek. xlvii. 1, 2, 3, 4, chap. iv. 1. Wherefore, in that its front stood towards the east, it may be to shew, that the true gospel church would have its eye to, and expectation from the Lord. We look, said Paul, but whither? We have our conversation, said he, in heaven, from whence our expectation is, 2 Cor. iv. 18; Phil. iii. 20, 21; Psal. lxii. 5.

2. It was also set with its face towards the east, to keep the people of God from committing idolatry, to wit, from worshiping the host of heaven, and the sun, whose rising is from the east. For, since the face of the temple stood towards the east, and since the worshippers were to worship at, or with their faces towards the temple, it follows, that both in their going to, and worshiping God towards that place, their faces must be from, and their backs towards the sun. The thus building of the temple therefore was a snare to idolaters, and a proof of the zeal of those that were the true worshippers; as also to this day, the true gospel instituted worship of Jesus Christ is; hence he is said to idolaters, to

be a snare and a trap, but to the godly a glory, Isa. viii. 14, chap. ix. 19.

3. Do but see how God caught the idolatrous Jews by this means in their naughtiness. And he brought me, said the prophet, into the inner court of the Lord's house ; and behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, even between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs towards the temple of the Lord, and their faces towards the east, Ezek. viii. 16. It was therefore, as I said, set with its face towards the east, to prevent false worshippers, and detect idolaters.

4. From the east also came the most blasting winds, winds that are destructive to man and beast, to fruit and trees, and ships at sea, Exod. x. 13 ; Job xxvii. 21 ; Ezek. xvii. 10, chap. xix. 12 ; Psal. xlviii. 7 ; Ezek. x. 12.

I say, the east wind, or that which comes from thence, is the most hurtful ; yet you see the temple hath set her face against it, to shew, that the true church cannot be blasted or made to turn back by any affliction. It is not east winds, nor none of their blastings, that can make the temple turn about. Hence he saith, That Jacob's face shall not wax pale. And again, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it, Isa. xxix. 22 ; Ezek. iii. 8 ; Matt. xvi. 18.

5. It might be also built with its face towards the east, to shew, That the true church looketh,

as before I hinted, for her Lord and king from heaven, knowing that at his coming he will bring healing in his wings : For from the east he will appear when he comes the second time, without sin unto salvation, of which the sun gives a memento in his rising there every morning. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth unto the west ; so shall also the coming of the son of man be, Mal. iv. 2 ; Heb. ix. 28 ; Col. iii. 3 ; 2 Pet. xi. 12, 13, 14 ; Matt. xxiv. 27.

6. Christ, as the north pole, draws those touched with the loadstone of his word, with the face of their souls towards him, to look for, and hasten to his coming. And this also is signified by the temple standing with its face towards the east.

CHAPTER X.

Of the Courts of the Temple.

I perceive that there were two courts belonging to the temple. The first was called the outward court, Ezek. xl. 17, chap. xlvi. 21.

1. This was that into which the people of necessity first entered, when they went to worship in the temple ; consequently that was it, in and by which the people did first shew their desires to be worshippers of God. And this answers to those badges and signs of love to

religion, that people have in face or outward appearance, Matt. xxv. 27 ; 2 Cor. x. 7.

2. In this, though here may sometimes be truth, yet oftener lies and dissimulation ; wherefore commonly an outward appearance is set in opposition to faith and truth, as the outward is in opposition to the inner court, and the outward to the inward man, and that is when it is by itself, for then it profits nothing, Rom. ii. 28 ; 1 Cor. xiii. 1, 2, 3 ; 2 Cor. v. 12.

3. Hence, though the outward court was something to the Jews, because by outward bodies they were distinguished from the Gentiles ; yet to us it is little, for now he is not a Jew who is one only outwardly ; therefore all the time of the beast's reign, this court is given to be trodden under foot ; for, as I said, outward show will avail nothing when the beast comes to turn and toss up professors with his horns, Rev. xi. 12.

4. But as there was an outward, so there was an inner court ; a court that stood nearer to the temple, and so to the true practical part of worship, than that inward court did, Ezek. x. 13, chap. xlvii ; 1 Kings vi. 36.

5. This inner court is that which is called the court of the priests, because it is that in which they boiled the trespass offerings, and in which they prepared the sin offering for the people, 2 Cor. iv. 9 ; Ezek. xlvi. 20.

6. This court therefore was the place of practice and of preparation to appear before God,

which is the first true token of a sincere and honest mind. Wherefore here, and not in the outward court, stood the great brazen altar, which was a type of Christ, by whom alone the true worshippers made their approach with acceptance unto God. Also here stood the brazen scaffold, on which the king kneeled when he prayed for the people, a type of Christ's prayers for his when he was in the world, 1 Kings ii; 2 Chron. vi. 13; John xiii. 17.

7. Wherefore this court was a type of practical worship, and so of our praying, hearing, and eating before God. There belonged to this court several gates, an east, a south, and a north gate; and when the people of the land went into this court to worship, they were not to go out at the gate by which they came in, but out of the gate over against it, to shew that true christians should persevere right on, and not turn back whatever they met with in the way. He that entered in by the way of the north gate to worship, shall go out by the way of the south gate; and he that entereth in by the way of the south gate, he shall not return by the way of the gate whereby he came in, but shall go over against it, Ezek. xlvi. 9.

8. These courts was places of great delight to the Jews, as both feigned and sincere profession is to those that practice therein. Wherefore when the Jews did enter into these, they did use to do it with praise and pipe, as do both hypocrites and sincere ones. So then when a

man shall tread in both these courts, and shall turn what he seems to be, into what he should be in reality ; then, and not till then, he treads them as he should ; for then he makes the outward court, and his treading there, but a passage to that which is more inward and sincere. But he that stays in the outward one is but such an one as pleases not God, for that he wants the practice of what he professes with his mouth.

CHAPTER XI.

Of the great Brazen Altar that stood in the Inner Court of the Temple.

IN the inner court, stood the great brazen altar which Solomon made ; this is evident, for that when he kneeled up the scaffold, there to pray, he kneeled before this altar : See Exod. xl. 6, 29 ; 2 Chron. vi. 13 ; 2 Kings xvi. 14 ; Joel ii.

2. This altar seems to be placed about the middle of this court, over against the porch of this house ; and between it and the temple was the place where Zachariah was slain. This altar was called the altar of burnt offering ; and therefore it was a type of Christ in his divinity ; for Christ's body was our true burnt offering, of which the bodies of the sacrificed beasts was a type. Now that altar upon which his body was offered, was his divinity or godhead ; for that, and that only, could bear up that offering in the

whole of its sufferings ; and that therefore, and that only was to receive the fat, the glory. Hence it is said, he, through the Eternal Spirit, offered himself without spot to God, Heb. ix. 14.

3. For Christ is priest, and sacrifice, and altar, and all. And as a priest he offered, and as a sacrifice he suffered, and as God he supported his humanity, in that suffering of all the pains it underwent, Gal. i. 4, ch. ii. 20 ; 1 Pet. iii. 18 ; Heb. ix. 14.

4. It was then Christ's godhead, not the tree, that was the altar of burnt offering ; or that by which Christ offered himself an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.

5. That it was not the tree is evident, for that could not sanctify the gift, to wit, his body ; but Christ affirmeth, that the altar sanctifieth the gift : and by so saying, he affirmeth, that the altar on which he offered his offering, was greater than the offering itself, Matt. xxiii. 19.

Now the body of Christ was the gift, for so he saith, I give my flesh for the life of the world, John vi.

But now what thing is that which is greater than his body, save the altar his Divinity, on which it was offered ? The tree then was not the altar which sanctified this gift, to make it of virtue enough to make reconciliation for iniquity, John vi. 15, ch. xvii. 19 ; Heb. xi. 14 ; Col. i. 19—21.

Now, since this altar of burnt offerings was

thus placed in the inner court, it teacheth us several things.

First, That those that come only into the outward court, or that rest in a bare appearance of Christianity, do not by so doing come to Jesus Christ, for this altar stands not there. Hence John takes notice only of the temple and this altar, and them that worship therein, and leaves out the outward court, and so them that come no farther, Rev. xi. 1, 2:

Secondly, This teaches us also, that we are to enter into that temple of God by blood. The altar, this altar of burnt offering, stood as men went into the temple; they must go by it, yea, there they must leave their offering, and so go in and worship, even as a token that they came thither by sacrifice and by blood.

Thirdly, Upon this altar, Solomon, at the dedication of the temple, offered thousands, both of oxen and of sheep, to signify surely the abundant worth and richness that would be in the blood of Christ to save, when it should be shed for us; for his blood is spoken of with an how much more. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh, *how much more*, shall the blood of Christ, who through the Eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your consciences from dead works, to serve the living God, Heb. xi. 14; Chron. vii. 5—8; Heb. x. 11, 12.

Let us then not dare to stop or stay in the out-

ward court, for there is not this altar ; nor let us dare when we come into this court, to be careless whether we look at this altar or no ; for it is by blood we must enter. For without shedding of blood there is no remission. Let us always then, when we come hither, wash our hands in innocency, and so compass this altar. For that by Christ, who is the altar indeed, we are reconciled to God. This is looking to Jesus, this is coming to God by him, of whom this altar and the sacrifice thereon was a type.

CHAPTER XII.

Of the Pillars that were before the Porch of the Temple.

THERE were divers pillars belonging to the temple. But in this place we are confined to speak of only two ; namely, those which stood before the temple.

These pillars stood before the porch or entrance into the temple, looking towards the altar, the court, and them that were the worshippers there ; also they were a grace and a beauty to the front of the house.

1. These pillars stood, one on the righthand, and the other on the left, at the door of the porch of the temple ; and they had names given them (you may be sure,) to signify something. The name of that on the righthand was Jachin.

(God shall establish;) and the name of that on the lefthand was Boaz, (in it is strength), 1 Kings vii. 21; 2 Chron. iii. 17.

2. These two pillars were types of Christ's apostles, of the apostles of circumcision, and of the uncircumcision. Therefore the Apostle Paul also called them pillars, Gal. ii, and saith, that the pillar on the righthand was a type of himself and his companions, who were to go to the uncircumcised, and teach the Gentiles the way of life. When James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave me and Barnabas the righthand of fellowship, that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision, Gal. ii. 9. So then, these two pillars were types of these two orders of the Apostles in this their divers service for God.

3. And that Paul and Barnabas was signified by those on the righthand, to wit, to be the Apostles of the Gentiles, he sheweth again, where he saith, I am the minister of Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the grace of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, Rom. xi. 13, chap. xv. 16.

4. And since the name of this pillar was Jachin, (God shall establish,) as it sheweth that opposition shall attend it; so also, that God would bless his word preached by them to the Gentiles, to the conversion of numbers of them, nauer all the opposition of the enemy

5. This is further implied, for that they were made of brass ; as he saith of the Prophet, I have made thee a fenced brazen wall, an iron pillar ; and their fighting against thee shall nothing at all prevail. Wherefore Paul says of himself, I am set for the defence of the Gospel, that the truth thereof might continue with you, Phil. i. 17 ; Gal. ii. 5.

CHAPTER XIII.

Of the Height of these Pillars that thus stood before the Porch of the Door of the Temple.

THE pillars were eighteen cubits high a-piece, and that is as high, yea, as high again as the highest giant that ever we read of in the world : for the highest of which we read, was but six cubits and a span.

True, the bedstead of Og was nine cubits long, but I trow, the giant himself was shorter, Deut. iii. 11 ; 2 Chron. iii. 16. But put the longest to the longest, and set the one upon the shoulders of the other, and yea, each pillar was higher than they.

We have now, as I know of, but few that remain of the remnant of the giants, and though they boast as if they were higher than Agag, yet these pillars are higher than they.

These pillars are the highest ; you may equal them, and an inch above is worth an ell below.

The height therefore of these pillars is to shew us what high dignity God did put upon those of his saints whom he did call to be apostles of the Lamb ; for their office and call thereto is the highest in the church of God. These men, I say, were made thus high by their being cast in such a mould. Of that which added yet further to their height, we will speak anon. We only speak now of the high call, by which they, and only they, were made capable of apostolical authority.

The apostles were sent immediately ; their call was extraordinary, their office was universal, they had alike power in all churches, and their doctrine was infallible ; Acts xxvi. 16 ; 1 Cor. ix. 1 ; Gal. i. 1 ; John i. 1, 2, 3 ; John ii. 23.

And what can our pretended giants do or say in comparison of these ? The truth is, all other men to these, are dwarfs, are low, dark, weak, and beneath, not only as to call and office, but also as to gifts and graces. This sentence, Paul "an apostle of Jesus Christ," drowneth all. What now are all other titles of grandeur and greatness, when compared with this one sentence ?

True, the men were but mean in themselves ; for what is Paul or Apollos, or what was James or John ? Yet by their call to that office, they were made highest of all in the church. Christ did raise them eighteen cubits high, not in conceit, for so there are many higher than

they, but in office, and calling, and divine authority.

And observe it, these stand at the door, at the entering into the temple of God, at which they enter that go in thither to worship God, to shew that all right worship, and that which will be acceptable to God, is by, or according to their doctrine.

CHAPTER XIV.

Of the Chapiters of the Pillars of the Temple.

THERE were also two chapiters made for the pillars of the temple, for each one; and they were five cubits high a-piece. These were for the adorning of the pillars; and therefore were types and shadows of that abundance of grace which God did put upon the apostles after the resurrection of our Lord. Wherefore, as he saith here, the chapiters were upon the pillars; so it saith, that great grace was upon all the apostles, Acts iv. 33.

These chapiters had belonging to them, a bowl made pommel-fashioned, and it was placed upon the head of them, perhaps to signify their aptness to receive, and largeness to contain the dew of heaven, that shadow of the doctrine of the gospel, which doctrine, as the chief, were to receive, and hold forth to the world for their conversion. Hence, as the

bowls were capable to receive the dew of heaven, these are said to receive grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations for his name, Rom. i. 5 ; 1 Kings vii. 16, 42 ; 2 Chron. iv. 12 ; Deut. xxxii. 1 ; Rom. xv. 29.

There was also upon these chapters a network, or nets, like unto chequer-work, which still added to their lustre. These nets were they which showed for what intent the apostolical office was ordained ; namely, that by their preaching they might bring many souls to God. And hence Christ calls them fishermèn, saying, ye shall catch men, Matt. iv. 19, chap. i. 17 ; Luke v. 10 ; 2 Cor. xii. 16.

The world is compared to a sea, men to fishes, and the gospel to a net, Ezek. xlvi. 10 to 14 ; Matt. xiii. 47, 48, 49, 50. As therefore men catch fish with a net, so the apostles caught men by their word ; which word, as I told you, to me signified this net work upon the top of these pillars. See therefore the mystery of God in these things.

CHAPTER XV.

Of the Pomegranates adjoined to these Nets on the Chapters.

THERE was also joined to these nets upon the top of these pillars, pomegranates in abundance,

four hundred for the net work. Pomegranates, you know, are beautiful to look on, pleasant to the palate, comfortable to the stomach, and cheering by their juice, 1 Kings vii. 42 ; Song iv. 3, ch. viii. 2, ch. iv. 13, ch. vi. 11, ch. vii. 12. There was to be two rows of the pomegranates for one net work, and so two rows of them for the other.

And this was to shew, that the net of the gospel is not an empty thing, but is sufficiently baited with such varieties as are apt to allure the world to be caught by them. The law is but a sound of words, but the gospel is not so ; that is, baited with pomegranates, with variety of excellent things. Hence it is called the gospel of the kingdom, and the gospel of the grace of God ; because it is, as it were, baited with grace and glory, that sinners may be allured, and may be taken with it to their eternal salvation, Matt. xxiv. 14 ; Acts xx. 24.

Grace and glory, grace and glory ! These are the pomegranates with which the word of the gospel is baited, that sinners may be taken and saved thereby. The argument of old was, milk and honey, that was, I say, the alluring bait with which Moses drew six hundred thousand out of Egypt, into the wilderness of old, Exod. iii. 8. But behold, we have pomegranates ; two rows of pomegranates ; grace and a kingdom is the bait of the holy gospel ; no wonder then, if when men of skill did cast this net into the sea, such numbers of fish have been caught, even

by one sermon, Acts ii. They baited their nets, which taking things, things taking to the eye and tastes.

Nets are only instruments of death, but the nets of the gospel both catch to draw from death, wherefore this seems contrary; life and immortality is brought to light through this. No marvel then if men are so glad, and that for gladness they leap like fishes in a net, when they see themselves caught in this drag of the holy gospel of the Son of God. They are caught from death and hell, caught to live with God in glory.

CHAPTER XVI.

Of the Chains that were upon those Pillars that stood before the Temple.

As there were nets to catch, and pomegranates to bait, so there were chains belonging to these chapiters on these pillars. And he made chains, as an oracle, and put them upon the head of the chapiters, 2 Chron. iii. 16.

But what were these chains a type of? I answer, they were (perhaps) a type of those bonds which attend the gospel, by which souls were taken and tied fast to the horns of the altar. Gospel grace, and gospel obligations, are ties and binding things; they can hold those that are entangled by the word. Love is strong as

death : bands of love, and the cords of a man, and chains take hold on them that are taken by the gospel, Hos. xi ; Song viii. 6.

But this strength to bind lieth not in outward force, but in a sweet constraint, by virtue of the displays of undeserved love. The love of Christ, constraineth us, 2 Cor. v. Wherefore, as you find the nets, so the chains had pomegranates on them. And he made an hundred pomegranates, and put them upon the chains, 2 Chron. iii. 16. The chains then had baits as well as the nets, to shew the bands of the gospel are irresistible goodnesses ; such, with which men love to be bound, and such as they pray they may be held fast by. He binds his foal to the vine, his saint unto his Saviour, Gen. xlix. 11.

By these chains, there is therefore shewed what strength there is in gospel charms, if once the adder doth but hear them ; never man was yet able to resist them, that did but well know the meaning of them. They are mighty to make poor men obedient, and that in word and deed.

These chains were such as was in the oracle, to shew that gospel bonds are strong, as the joys of heaven, and as the glories there, can make them chains, as in the oracle as in the most holy place. It is heaven that binds sinners on earth, to the faith and hope of the gospel of Christ.

CHAPTER XVII.

Of the Lilly-work which was upon the Chapiters that were upon these Pillars of the Temple.

THESE pillars were also adorned with lilly work, as well as with pomegrānates and chains. Chapiters also which were upon the top of the pillars were of lilly work ; so was the work of the pillars finished. See 1 Kings vii. 19, 20.

This lilly work is here put in on purpose, even to shew us how far off those that were to be the true apostles of the Lamb, should be from seeking carnal things, or of making their preaching a stalking horse to worldly greatness, and that preferment. There was lilly work upon them ; that is, they lived upon the bounty and care of God, and was content with that glory which he had put upon them. The lillies, saith Christ, they toil not, neither do they spin, and yet Solomon, in all his glory, was not arrayed like one of these, Matt. vii. 28, 29.

Thus, therefore these pillars shew, that as the apostles should be fitted and qualified for their work, they should be free also from cares and worldly cumber ; they should be content with God's providing for them, even as the goodly lillies are. And as thus prepared, they were set in the front of the house, for all ministers to see and learn, and take example of them, how to

behave themselves as to this world in the performing of their office.

And that which gives us further light in this, is, that this lilly work is said by divine institution, to be placed over against the belly, the belly of the pillars, a type of ours, 1 Kings vii. 20.

The belly is a craving thing ; and these things, saith the text, were placed over against the belly, to teach, that they should not humour, but check the havings and cravings of the belly ; or to shew that they need not do it ; for he that calls to his work, will himself provide for the belly. It is said of the church, that her belly is as a heap of wheat set about with lillies, Song vii. 2. To shew, that she should without covetousness have sufficient, if she would cast all her cares upon God, her great Provider ; this the apostles did, and this is their glory to this day.

So was the work of the pillars finished. To live lilly lives, it seems is the glory of an apostle, and their completing of their office and service for God. But this is directly opposite to the belly over against the belly, and this makes it the harder work. But yet so living, is the way to make all that's done sweet scented to those that be under this care. Covetousness makes a minister smell frowish, and look more like a greedy dog than an apostle of Jesus Christ. Judas had none of this lilly work, so his name stinks to this day. He that grows like the lilly, shall cast forth his scent like Lebanon, his branches shall spread,

and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon.

Thus lived Christ, first ; and thus the apostles, next ; nor can any other, as to this, live like, or be compared to them. They coveted no man's silver or gold, or apparel. They lived like lillies in the world, and did send forth their scent as Lebanon.

Thus you see of whom these pillars were a shadow, and what their height, their chapiters, their bowls, their nets, their chains, their pomegranates and their lilly work did signify, and how all was most sweetly answered in the anti-type. These were men of the first rate ; the apostles, I mean, were such.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Of the Fashion of the Temple.

OF the length and breadth of the temple, I shall say nothing ; but as to the height thereof, there, methinks, I see something. The temple was higher than the pillars ; and so is the church, than her officers ; I say, consider them singly as officers, (though inferior as to gifts and office,) for as I said before of ministers in general, so now I say the same of the apostles ; though as to office they were the highest, yet the temple is above them. Gifts and office make no men sons of God ; as so, they are but servants ; though

they were servants of the highest form. It is the church, as such, that is the lady, a queen, the bride, the Lamb's wife ; and prophets, apostles and ministers, &c. are but servants, stewards, labourers for her good, Ps. xlv. 9 ; Rev. xix. 7 ; 1 Cor. iii. 5, and iv. 1, 2.

As therefore the lady is above the servant, the queen above the steward, or the wife above all her husband's officers, so is the church, as such, above these officers. The temple was higher than the pillars.

2. Again, as the temple was highest, so it enlarged itself still upward ; for as it ascendeth in height, so it still was wider and wider, even from the lowest chambers to the top.

The first chambers were but five cubits broad, the middle ones were six, but the highest were seven cubits, 1 Kings vi. 5, 6. The temple therefore was round about above, some cubits wider than it was below. For there was an enlarging, and ascending about still upward to the side chambers ; for the winding about was still upward round about the house ; therefore the breadth of the house was still upward and so increased from the lowest chamber to the highest, by the midst, Ezek. xiii- 7.

And this was to shew us, that God's true gospel temple, which is his church, should have its enlargedness of heart still upwards, or most for spiritual and eternal things ; wherefore he saith, thy heart shall fear, and be enlarged ; that is, be most affected with things above, where Christ

sitteth on the right hand of God, Isa. lx. 5 ; Col. iii. 2, 3. Indeed it is the nature of grace to enlarge itself still upward, and to make the heart widest for the things that are above.

The temple therefore was narrowest downwards, to shew, that a little of earth, or this world, should serve the church of God. And having food and raiment, let us therewith be content.

But now upwards, and as to heavenly things we are commanded to be covetous, as to them, and after them to enlarge ourselves, both by the fashion of the temple, as by express words, 1 Kings iv. 29 ; Isa. lx. 5 ; Phil. iii. 14 ; 1 Cor. xii. 31 ; 1 Tim. vi. 8 ; Psal. cxix. 32.

Since then the temple was widest upward, let us imitate it, and have our conversation in heaven. Let our eyes, our ears, our hands and hearts, our prayers and groans, be most for things above. Let us open our mouths, as the ground that is chapt doth for the latter rain, for the things that are eternal, Job xxix. 23 ; Psal. lxxxi. 10.

Observe again, that the lowest parts of the temple were the narrowest parts of the temple ; so those in the church who are nearest, or most concerned with earth, are the most narrow spirited, as to the things of God. But now let even such an one be taken up higher, to above, to the uppermost parts of the temple, and there he will be enlarged, and have his heart stretched out. For the temple, as you see, was widest upwards,

the higher, the more it was enlarged. Paul being once caught up into Paradise, could not but be there enlarged, 2 Cor. xii.

One may say of the fashion of the temple, as some say of a living picture, it speaks. I say, its form and fashion speaks, it says to all saints, to all the churches of Christ, open your hearts for heaven, be ye enlarged upwards.

I read not in scripture of any house, but this, that was thus enlarged upwards, nor is there any where, save only in the church of God, that which doth answer this similitude.

All other are widest downwards, and have the largest heart for earthly things; the church only is widest upwards, and has its greatest enlargements towards heaven.

CHAPTER XIX.

Of the outward Glory of the Temple.

I do also think, that as to this, there was a greater expression in it; I mean, a voice of God, a voice that teacheth the New-Testament church to carry even conviction in her outward usages, that, I say, might have conviction to the world. And besides these, of its enlarging upwards, there was such an outward beauty and glory put upon it, as was alluring to beholders. The stones were curiously carved, and excellently joined together; its outward shew was white and glit-

tering to the dazzling of the eyes of beholders ; yea, the disciples themselves were taken with it, it was so admirable to behold ; hence it is said, they came to Christ to shew him the building of the temple : Master, said they, see what manner of stones, and what buildings are here, Matt. xxiv. 1 ; Mark xiii. 1 ; Luke xxi. 5. And hence it is said, that kings and the mighty of the earth were taken with the glory of it. Because of thy temple at Jerusalem, shall kings bring presents unto thee. As it is, Psal. lxxviii. 29, 31.

Kings, Gentile kings, they shall be so taken with the sight of the outward glory of it ; for they were not suffered to go into it : no uncircumcised were admitted in thither. It was therefore with the outward glory of it with which the beholders were thus taken.

Her enlarging upward, as that was to shew us what the inward affections of Christians should be, Col. iii. 1, 2, 3 ; so her curious outward adorning and beauty, was a figure of the beautiful and holy conversation of the godly. And it is brave, when the world are made to say of the lives and conversation of saints, as they were made to say of the stones and outward building of the temple : Behold, what Christians, and what godly conversations are here ! I say, 'tis brave, when our light so shines before men, that they, seeing our good works, shall be forced to glorify our Father which is in heaven, Matt.

Hence this is called our adorning, wherewith we adorn the gospel, and that by which we beautify it, Tit. ii. 10.

This, I say, is taking to beholders, as was this goodly outside of the temple. And without this, what is to be seen in the church of God? Her inside cannot be seen by the world, but her outside may. Now, her outside is very homely, and without all beauty, save that of the holy life; this only is her visible goodness. This puts to silence the ignorance of foolish men. This allureth others to fall in love with their own salvation, and makes them fall in with Christ against the devil and his kingdom.

CHARTER XX.

Of the Porch of the Temple.

WE come next to the porch of the temple, that is commonly called Solomon's.

1. This porch was in the front of the house, and so became the common way into the temple, 1 Kings vi. 3; 2 Chron. iii. 4.

2. This porch therefore was the place of reception in common for all, whether Jews or religious proselytes, who came to Jerusalem to worship, Acts iii. 11, chap. v. 12.

3. This porch had a door or gate belonging to it, but such as was seldom shut, except in declining times, or when men put themselves into a

rage against those better than themselves, 2 Chron. xxix. 7 ; Acts xxi. 28, 29, 30.

4. This gate of this porch was called beautiful, even the beautiful gate of the temple, and was that at which the lame man lay to beg for an alms of them that went in thither to worship, Acts iii. 1, 2, 10.

Now then, since this porch was the common place of reception for all worshippers, and the place also where they laid the beggars, it looks as if it were to be a type of the church's bosom for charity. Here the proselytes were entertained, here the beggars were relieved, and received alms. These gates were seldom shut ; and the houses of Christian compassion should be always open. This therefore beautified this gate, as charity beautifies any of the churches. Largeness of heart, and tender compassion at the church door, is excellent, it is the bond of perfectness, 1 Cor. xii. 31, chap. xiii. 1, 2, 3, 4. Heb. xiii. 1, 2, 3 ; John v. 6, 7 ; Col. iii. 14.

The church porch to this day, is a coming-in for beggars, and perhaps this practice at first was borrowed from the beggars lying at the temple gate. This porch was large, and so should the charity of the churches be. It was for length, the breadth of the temple, and of the same size with the holiest of all, 1 Kings vi. 3 ; 2 Chron. iii. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

The first, might be to teach us, in charity we should not be niggardly, but according to the breadth of our ability, we should extend it to all

the house ; and that in our so doing, the very emblem of heaven is upon us, of which the holiest was a figure. As therefore we have opportunity, let us do good to all, &c.

It is a fine ornament to a true church, to have a large church porch, or a wide bosom for reception of all that come thither to worship. This was commanded to the Jews, and their glory shone when they did accordingly. And it shall come to pass in what place the stranger sojourneth, there shall ye give him his inheritance, saith the Lord God, Ez. xlvi.

This porch was, as I said, not only for length, and breadth of the temple, and so the length and breadth of the holiest ; but it was, if I mistake not, for height, far higher than them both. For the holy place was but thirty cubits high, and the most holy but twenty ; but the porch was in height an hundred and twenty cubits. This beautiful porch therefore was four times as high as was the temple itself, 1 Kings vi. 2, 20 ; 2 Chron. iii. 4.

One excellent ornament therefore of this temple was, for that it had a porch so high, that is, so famous for height, so high as to be seen afar off. Charity, if it be rich, runs up from the church like a steeple, and will be seen afar off ; I say, if it be rich, large, and abounds. Christ's charity was blazed abroad, it was so high, no man could hide it ; and the charity of the churches will be seen from church to church ; yea, and will be spoken of to their commenda-

tions in every place, if it be warm, fervent, and high, Mark, vii. 36 ; 2 Cor. viii. 24, chap. ix. 2, 13, 14.

CHAPTER XXI.

Of the Ornaments of the Porch of the Temple.

THERE were three things belonging to the porch, besides its height, that was an ornament unto it.

I. It was overlaid within with gold.

II. It had the pillars adjoined unto it.

III. It was the inlet into the temple.

First, It was overlaid with gold, oft-times was a type of grace, and particularly of the grace of love. That in Solomon's chariot, called 'gold, is yet again mentioned by the name of love, Song iii. 9, 10. As it is in the church, the grace of love is as gold ; it is the greatest, the richest of graces, and that which abides for ever. Hence, they that shew much love to saints, are said to be rich, 1 Tim. vi. 17, 18, 19. And hence charity is called a treasure, a treasure in the heavens, Luke xii. 33, 34. Love is a golden grace ; let then the churches, as the porch of the temple was, be inlaid with love as gold.

Secondly, It had the pillars adjoined to it, the which, besides its stateliness, seems to be there typically to teach example ; for there was seen

by the space of four cubits, their lilly work in the porch, 1 Kings vii. 19.

Of their lilly work I spoke before now, that they were so placed, that they might be seen in the porch of the house, it seems to be for example, to teach the church, that she should live without worldly care, as did the apostles, the first planters of the church. And let ministers do this; they are now the pillars of the churches, and they stand before the porch of the house; let them also shew their lilly work to the house, that the church may learn of them to be without carefulness, as to worldly things, and also to be rich in love and charity towards the brethren.

Thirdly, Another ornament of this porch, was, that it was as an inlet to the temple. Charity is it which receiveth orphans, that receiveth the poor and afflicted into the church; worldly love, or that which is carnal, shuts up bowels, yea, and the church doors too, against the poor of the flock; wherefore look, that this kind of love be never countenanced by you. Crave that rather which is a fruit of the Spirit.

O churches! let your ministers be beautified with your love, that they may beautify you with their love, and also be an ornament unto you, and to that gospel they minister unto you, for Jesus Christ his sake.

CHAPTER XXII.

*Of the Ascent, by which they went up into the
Porch of the Temple.*

THIS porch also had certain steps by which they went up into the house of the Lord. I know not directly the number of them, though Ezekiel speaks something about it, Ezek. xl. 38, 39. Hence when men went to worship in the temple, they were said, To go up unto the house of the Lord, Isa. xxxviii. 22.

These steps which were the ascent to the temple, were so curiously set, and so finely wrought, that they were amazing to behold. Wherefore when the queen of Sheba, who came to prove Solomon's wisdom, saw the house which he had built, and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the Lord, she had no more spirit in her. She was by that sight quite drowned and overcome, 1 Kings x. 4, 5.

2. These steps, whether cedar, gold, or stone, yet that which added to their adornment, was the wonderment of a queen. And whatever they were made of, to be sure, they were a shadow of those steps which we should take to and in the house of God. Steps of God, Ps. lxxxv. 13. Steps ordered by him, Ps. xxxvii. 23. Steps ordered in his word, Psal. cxix. 133. Steps of faith, Rom. iv. 12. Steps of the Spirit, 1 Cor. xii. 18. Steps of truth, 3 John iv. Steps

washed with butter, Job xxix. 6. Steps taken before, or in the presence of God. Steps butted and bounded by a divine rule. These are steps indeed.

There are therefore no such steps as these to be found any where in the world. A step to honor, a step to riches, a step to worldly glory ; these are every where ; but what are these to the steps by which men do ascend, or go up to the house of the Lord ?

He then that entereth into the house of the Lord, is an ascending man ; as it is said of Moses, he went up into the mount of God. It is ascending, to go into the house of God. The world believe not this, they think it is going downward to go up to the house of God ; but they are in a horrible mistake.

The steps then by which men went up into the temple, are and ought to be opposed to those which men take to their lusts and empty glories. Hence such steps are said, not only to decline from God, but to take hold of the path to death and hell, Psal, xliv. 18 ; Prov. ii. 18, chap, iv, chap. vii. 25, 26, 27.

The steps then, by which men went up to the house of the Lord, were significative of those steps which men take when they go to God, to heaven, and glory ; for these steps were the way to God, to God in his holy temple.

But how few are there, that, as the queen of the south, are taken with these Godly steps ! Do not most rather seek to push away our feet

from taking hold of the path of life, or else lay snares for us in the way? But all these, notwithstanding, the Lord guide us in the way of his steps, they are goodly steps, they are the best.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Of the Gate of the Porch of the Temple.

1. THE porch, at which was an ascent to the temple, had a gate belonging to it. This gate according to the prophet Ezekiel, was six cubits wide. The leaves of this gate were double, one folding this way, the other folding that, Ezek. xl. 48.

Now, here some may object and say, since the way to God by these doors were so wide, why doth Christ say, The way and gate is narrow.

Answer. The straitness, the narrowness, must not be understood of the gate simply, but because of that cumber that some men carry with them that pretend to be going to heaven. Six cubits? What is sixteen cubits to him who would enter in here with all the world on his back? The young man in the gospel, who made such a noise for heaven, might have gone in easy enough; for in six cubits breadth there is room; but poor man! he was not for going in thither, unless he might carry in his houses upon his

shoulders too ; and now the gate was strait, Mark x. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.

Wherefore, he that will enter in at the gate of heaven, of which this gate into the temple was a type, must go in by himself, and not with his bundles of trash upon his back ; and if he will go in thus, he need not fear there is room. The righteous nation that keepeth the truth, they shall enter in, Isa. xxvi. 2.

2. They that enter in at the gate of the inner court, must be clothed in fine linen ; how then shall they go into the temple, that carry the clogs of the dirt of this world at their heels ? Thus saith the Lord, no stranger uncircumcised in heart, or uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter into my sanctuary, Ezek. xlv. 9.

3. The wideness therefore of this gate is for this cause here made mention of, to wit, to encourage them that would gladly enter thereat, according to the mind of God, and not to flatter them that are not for leaving all for God.

4. Wherefore let such as would go in, remember that here is room, even a gate to enter in at, six cubits wide. We have been all this while but on the outside of the temple, even the courts of the house of the Lord, to see the beauty and glory there is there. The beauty hereof made men cry out and say, How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts ! My soul longeth, yea, fainteth for the courts of the Lord. And to say, A day in thy courts is better than a thousand, Psalm lxxxiv. 1, 2, &c.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Of the Pinnacles of the Temple.

1. THERE were also several pinnacles belonging to the temple. These pinnacles stood on the top, aloft in the air, and were sharp, and difficult to stand upon : what men say of their number and length, I wave, and come directly to their signification.

2. I therefore take those pinnacles to be the types of those lofty airy notions, with which some men delight themselves, while they hover, like birds, above the solid and godly truths of Christ. Satan attempted to entertain Jesus Christ with this type and anti-type, at once, when he set him on one of the pinnacles of the temple, and offered to thrust him upon a false confidence in God, by a false and unfound interpretation of a text, Matt. iv. 5, 6 ; Luke iv. 9, 10, 11,

3. You have some men cannot be content to worship in the temple, but must be aloft, no place will serve them but pinnacles, that they may be speaking in and to the air ; that they may be promoting their heady notions, instead of solid truths ; not considering, that now they are where the devil would have them be, they strut upon their points, their pinnacles ; but let them look to it, there is difficult standing upon pinnacles, their neck, their soul is in danger.

We read, God is in his temple, not upon these pinnacles, Ps. xi. 4.

4. It is true, Christ was once upon one of these, but the devil set him there, with intent to have dashed him in pieces by a fall ; and yet even then told him, if he would venture to tumble down, he should be kept from dashing his feet against a stone. To be there, therefore, was one of Christ's temptations, consequently one of Satan's stratagems ; nor went he thither of his own accord, for he knew that there was danger ; he loved not to clamber pinnacles.

5. This should teach Christians to be low and little in their own eyes, and to forbear to intrude into airy and vain speculations, and to take heed of being puffed up with a foul and empty mind.

CHAPTER XXV.

Of the Porters of the Temple.

THERE were porters belonging to the temple. In David's time their number was four thousand men, 1 Chron. xxiii. 5.

2. The porters were of the Levites, and their work was to watch at every gate of the house of the Lord. At the gate of the outward court, at the gates of the inner court, and at the door of the temple of the Lord, 2 Chron. xxxv. 15.

3. The work of the porters, or rather the reason of their watching, was to look that none, not duly qualified, entered into the house of the Lord. He set, saith the text, porters at the gates of the house of the Lord, that none which was unclean in any thing should enter in, 2 Chron. xxiii. 19.

4. The excellency of the porters lay in these three things ; their watchfulness, diligence, and valor, to make resistance to those that as unfit would attempt to enter those courts, and the house of God, 1 Chron. xxvi. 6 ; Mark xiii. 34.

5. These porters were types of our gospel ministers, as they are set to be watchmen in and over the church, and the holy things of God. Therefore, as Christ gives to every man, in the church his work, so he commands the porter to watch, Ezek. iii. 17, ch. xxxiii. 7 ; Acts xx. 31 ; 2 Tim. iv. 5 ; Rev. iii. 2, 3.

6. Sometimes every awakened Christian is said to be a porter ; and such at Christ's first knock, open unto him immediately, Luke xii. 36 to 39.

7. The heart of a Christian is also sometimes called the porter, for that when the true Shepherd comes to it, to him this porter openeth also, John x. 3.

8. This last has the body for his watch house, the eyes and ears for his port holes, the tongue, therewith to cry, who comes there ? as also to call for aid, when any thing unclean shall

attempt with force and violence to enter in, to defile the house.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Of the Charge of the Porters of the Temple more particularly.

THE charge of the porters was to keep their watch, in four square, even round about the temple of God. Thus it was ordained by David, before him by Moses, and after him by Solomon his son, 1 Chron. ix. 24 ; Numb. iii. 2 ; 2 Chron. xxiii. 19, chap. xxxv. 15.

2. The porters had, some of them, the charge of the treasure chambers, some of them had the charge of the ministering vessels, even to bring them in and out by tale. Also the opening and shutting of the gates of the house of the Lord, was a part of their calling and office.

1. I told you the porters were types of our gospel ministers, as they are watchmen in and over the house of God ; and therefore in that they were thus to watch round about the temple. What is it, but to shew, how diligent satan is to see if he may get in somewhere, by some means to defile the church of God. He goes round and round, and round us, to see if he can find a hog-hole for that purpose.

2. This also sheweth, that the church of itself, without its watchmen, is a weak, feeble,

and very helpless thing. What can the lady or mistress do to defend herself against thieves and sturdy villians, if there be none but she at home? It is said, When the shepherd is smitten, the sheep shall be scattered. What could the temple do without its watchmen?

3. Again, in that the porters had charge of the treasure chambers, (as it is, 1 Chron. ix. 26,) it is to imitate, that the treasures of the gospel are with the ministers of our God; and that the church, next to christ, should seek them at their mouth. We have this treasure in earthen vessels, saith Paul; and they are stewards of the manifold mysteries of God, 1 Cor. iv. 1; 2 Cor. iv. 7; 1 Peter iv. 10; Eph. iv. 11, 12, 13.

4. These are God's true scribes, and bring out of their treasury things new and old; or, as he saith in another place, at our gates, that is, where our porters watch, are all manner of pleasant fruit, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved, Matt. xiii. 52; Song vii. 13.

5. Further, some of them had charge of the ministering vessels, and they were to bring them in and out by tale, 1 Chron. ix. 28.

1, If by ministering vessels you understand gospel ordinances, then you see who has the charge of them, to wit, the watchmen and ministers of the word, Luke i. 12; 2 Thess. ii. 15; 2 Tim. ii. 2.

2. If by ministering vessels, you mean the members of the church, for they are also ministering vessels, then you see who has the care

of them, to wit, the pastors, the gospel ministers.

Therefore obey them that have the rule over you, for they watch for your souls, as they that must give an account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief, for that is unprofitable for you, Rom. ix. 22. ch. xiii. 17.

3. The opening of the gates did also belong to the porters, to shew, that the power of the key, to wit, of opening and shutting, of letting in, and keeping out of the church, doth ministerially belong to these watchmen, Matt. xvi. 19 ; Heb. xii. 15.

4. The conclusion is, then, let the churches love their pastors, hear their pastors, be ruled by their pastors, and suffer themselves to be watched over, and to be exhorted, counselled, and, if need be, reprov'd and rebuked by their pastors. And let the ministers not sleep, but be watchful and look to the ordinances, to the souls of the saints, and the gates of the churches. Watchmen ! watchmen ! watch.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Of the Doors of the Temple.

Now we are come to the gate of the temple, namely, to that which led out of the porch into the holy place.

1. These doors or gates were folding, and they opened by degrees. First, a quarter, then a half, after that three quarters, and last of all the whole. These doors also hanged upon hinges of gold, and upon posts made of the goodly olive trees, 1 Kings vi. 33, 34; Ezek. xli. 23, 24.

2. These doors did represent Christ, as he is the way to the Father, as also did the door of the tabernacle at which the people were wont to stand, when they went to inquire of God. Wherefore Christ saith, I am the door, (alluding to this) by me if any man enter, he shall be saved, and go in and out, and find pasture, Exod. xxxiii. 9, 10; xxxviii. 8; xl. 12; Levit. i. 3; viii. 3, 4, 13; xv. 14; Numb. iv. 13, 18; x. 3; xv. 6; xxvii. 2; 1 Sam. ii. 22; John x. 9.

1. I am the door. The door into the court, the door into the porch, the door into the temple, the door into the holiest, the door to the Father. But now we are at the door of the temple.

2. And observe it, this door by Solomon was not measured, as the door of the porch was, for though the door into the court, and the door into the porch were measured, to shew that the right to ordinances, and the inlet into the church, is to be according to a prescript rule, yet this door was not measured, to shew that Christ, as he is the inlet to saving grace, is beyond all measure, and unsearchable. Hence his grace is called unsearchable riches, and that above all we can

ask or think, for that it passeth all knowledge, Eph. iii. 18, 19, 20.

3. It is therefore convenient that we put a note upon this that we may distinguish rule and duty from grace and pardoning mercy ; for, as I said, though Christ, as the door to outward privileges, is set forth by rule and measure ; yet as he is the door to grace and favour, never creature, as yet, did see the length and breadth of him, Eph. iii. 17, 18, 19.

4. Therefore, I say, this gate was not measured, for what should a rule do here, where things are beyond all measure ?

5. This gate being also to open by degrees, is of signification to us, for it will be opening first by one fold, then by another, and yet will never be set wide open until the day of judgment. For then, and not till then, will the whole of the matter be open. For now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face ; now we know in part, but then we shall know even as we are known, 1 Cor. xiii. 2.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Of the leaves of this Gate of the Temple.

THE leaves of this gate or door, as I told you before, were folding, and so, as was hinted, has something of signification in them. For by this means, a man, especially a young disciple, may

easily be mistaken ; thinking that the whole passage, when yet but a part was open, whereas three parts might be kept undiscovered to him. For these doors, as I said before, were never yet set wide open, I mean in the anti-type ; never man yet saw all the riches and fulness which is in Christ. So that I say, a new comer, if he judgeth by present sight, especially if he saw but little, might easily be mistaken ; wherefore such, for the most part, are horribly afraid that they shall never get in thereat.

How sayest thou, Young comer, is not this the case with thy soul ? So it seems to thee, that thou art too big, being so great, so turn-bellied a sinner. But, O thou sinner, fear not, the doors are folding doors, and may be opened wide, and wider again after that ; wherefore when thou comest to this gate, and imaginest there is not space enough for thee to enter, knock, and it shall be wider opened unto thee, and thou shalt be received, Luke xi. 9 ; John ix. 37. So then, whoever thou art, thou art come to the door, of which the temple door was a type ; trust not to thy first conception of things, but believe there is grace abundance. Thou knowest not yet what Christ can do, the doors are folding doors. He can do exceeding abundantly, above all that we ask or think, Eph. iii. 20.

The hinges on which these doors do hang, were, as I told you, gold, to signify, that they both turned upon motives and motions of love,

and also that the openings thereof were rich. Golden hinges the gate to God doth turn upon.

The posts on which these doors did hang, were of the olive-tree, that fat and oily tree, to show, that they do never open with lothness or sluggishness, and as doors do, whose hinges want oil. They are always oily, and so open easily and quickly to those who knock at them. Hence you read, that he that dwells in this house gives freely, loves freely, and doth us good with all his heart. Yea, saith he, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and will plant them in this land assuredly, with my whole heart and with my soul, Jer. iii. 12, 14, 22, ch. xxxii. 41; Rev. xxi. 6, ch. xxii. 17.

Wherefore the oil of grace, signified by this oily tree, or those olive posts, on which these doors do hang, do cause that they open glibly, or frankly to the soul.

CHAPTER XXIX.

What the Doors of the Temple were made of.

THE doors of the temple were made of fir, that is so sweet-scented and pleasant to the smell, 1 Kings vi. 34.

2. Mankind is also often compared to the fir-tree, as Isa. xli. 19, ch. lxxv. 13, ch. l. 17, ch. xiv. 8.

3. Now since the doors of the temple were made of the same, doth it not show, that the way into God's house, and into his favour, is by the same nature of which they are of, that thither enter, even through the vail his flesh? Heb. x. For this door, I mean the anti-type, doth even say of himself, I am as a green fir-tree, from me is thy fruit found, Hos. xiv. 8.

4. This fir-tree is Christ, Christ as man, and so as the way to the Father. The doors of the temple are also, as you see here, made of the fir-tree; even of that tree which was a type of the humanity of Jesus Christ. Consider, Heb. ii. 14.

5. The fir-tree is also the house of the stork, that unclean bird, even as Christ is a harbor and shelter for sinners. As for the stork, saith the text, the fir-tree is her house; and Christ saith to the sinners that see their want of shelter, Come unto me, and I will give you rest. He is a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in time of trouble, Deut. xiv. 18; Lev xi 19; Psalm civ. 17, ch. lxxiv. 2, 3; Matt. xi. 28; Heb. vi. 17
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He is as the doors of fir of the temple, the inlet to God's house, to God's presence, and to a partaking of his glory. Thus God did of old by similitudes teach his people his way.

CHAPTER XXX.

How the Doors of the Temple were adorned.

AND Solomon carved upon the doors, cherubims, palm-trees, and open flowers, and overlaid them all with gold, 1 Kings vi. 35; Ezek. xli. 15.

He carved cherubims thereon.

These Cherubims were figures, or types of angels, and forasmuch as they were carved here upon the door, it was to shew,

First, What delight the angels take in waiting upon the Lord, and in going at his bidding, at his beck. They are always waiting servants at the door of their Lord's house.

Secondly, It may be also to shew how much pleased they are to be where they may see sinners come to God. For there is joy in the presence of the angels of God, over one sinner that repenteth, and comes to God by Christ for mercy, Luke xv. 10.

Thirdly, They may also be placed here to behold with what reverence or ir-reverence those that come hither to worship do behave themselves. Hence Solomon cautions those that come to God's house to worship, that they take heed to their feet because of the angels. Paul also says, women must take heed, that they behave themselves in the church as they should,

and that because of the angels, Eccl. v. 1, 2, 6 ; 1 Cor. xi. 14.

Fourthly, They may be also carved upon the temple doors, to show us, how ready they are so soon as any poor creature comes to Christ for life, to take the care and charge of its conduct through this miserable word : Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for those which shall be heirs of salvation, Heb. i. 14.

Fifthly, They may also be carved here, to show, that they are ready at Christ's command, to take vengeance for him upon those that despise his people, and hate his person. Hence, he bids the world take heed what they do to his little ones, for their angels behold the face of their Father which is in heaven, and are ready at the door to run at his bidding, Matt. xviii. 10.

Sixthly, or lastly, They may be carved upon these doors, to shew, that Christ Jesus is the very supporter and upholder of angels, as well as the Saviour of sinful man ; for as he is before all things, so by him all things consist ; angels stand by Christ, men are saved by Christ, and therefore the very cherubims themselves were carved upon these doors, to shew, they are upheld, and subsist by him, 1 Cor. viii. 6 ; Col. i. 17 ; Heb. i. 3.

Secondly, Again, as the cherubims are carved here, so were the palm-trees carved here also. The palm-tree is upright, it twisted not itself awry, Jer. x. 5.

1. Apply this to Christ, and then it shews us the uprightness of his heart, word, and ways, with sinners. Good and upright is the Lord, therefore will he teach sinners in the way, in at the door to life, Psalm xxv. 8, ch. xcii. 15.

The palm or palm-tree is also a token of victory, and as placed here, it betokeneth the conquest that Christ, the door, should get over sin, death, the devil, and hell, for us, Rom. vii. 24, ch. viii. 37 ; 1 Cor. xv. 54—56 ; Rev. vii. 9, 10, 11.

3. If we apply the palm-tree to the church, as we may, for she also is compared thereto, Song. vii. 8—10, then the palm-tree may be carved here to shew, that none but such as are upright of heart and life, shall dwell in the presence of God. The hypocrite, says Job, shall not come before him. The upright, says David, shall dwell in thy presence, Job xiii. 16 ; Psalm xiv. 3, 4.

They are they that are clothed in white robes, which signifies uprightness of life, that stand before the Lamb with palms in their hands, Rev. vii. 9.

Thirdly, There were also carved upon these doors open flowers, and that to teach us, that here is the sweet scent and fragrant smell, and that the coming soul will find it so in Christ, this door. I am, saith he, the rose of Sharon, and the lilly of the valleys. And again, his cheeks are as beds of spices, and several flowers ; his

lips like lillies dropping sweet smelling myrrh, Song ii. 1, ch. v. 13.

Open flowers ; open flowers are the sweetest, because full-grown, and because as such, they yield their fragrancly more sweetly. Where, when he saith, upon the doors are open flowers, he setteth Christ Jesus forth in his good savours, as high as by such similitudes, he could ; and that both in name and office : For open flowers lay, by their thus opening themselves before us, all their beauty also most plainly before our faces. There are varieties of beauty in open flowers, the which they also commend to all observers. Now, upon these doors, you see are open flowers, flowers ripe and spread before us, to shew, that its name and offices are savoury to them, that by him do enter his house to his Father, Song i. 1—4.

All these were overlaid with fine gold. Gold is most rich of all metals : And here it is said, the doors, the cherubims, the palm-trees, and open flowers, were overlaid therewith. And this shews, that as these things are rich in themselves, even so they should be to us.

We have a golden door to go to God by, and golden angels to conduct us through the world. We have golden palm-trees as tokens of our victory, and golden flowers to smell on all the way to heaven.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Of the Wall of the Temple.

THE wall of the temple was ceiled with fir, which he overlaid with fine gold, and set thereon palm-trees and chains, 2 Chron iii. 5—7.

The walls were as the body of the house, unto which Christ alluded, when he said, destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up, John ii. 19—21.

Hence to be, and worship in the temple, was a type of being in Christ, and worshipping God by him: For Christ, as it was said, is the great temple of God, in which all the elect meet, and in whom they do service to and for his Father.

Hence again, the true worshippers are said to be in him, to speak in him, to walk in him, to obey him, 2 Cor. ii. 14. ch. xii. 19; Col. ii. 6. For, as of old, all true worship was to be found at the temple, so now it is only found with Christ, and with them that are in him. The promise of old was made to them that worshipped within these walls: I will give, saith he, to them in my house, and within my walls, (to them that worship there in truth,) a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters, Isa. v. 5, 6.

But now, in New Testament times, all the promises in him, are yea, and in him, Amen, to the glory of God by us, 2 Cor. i. 20.

This is yet further hinted to us, in that it is said, these walls are ceiled with fir ; which, as was shewed before, was a figure of the humanity of Jesus Christ.

A wall is for defence, and so is the humanity of Jesus Christ. It was, and will be our defence forever ; for it was that which underwent and overcame the curse of the law, and in that which our everlasting righteousness is found. Had he not in that interposed, we had perished forever. Hence we are said to be reconciled to God by the body of his flesh through death, Col. i. 19, 20 ; Rom. v. 8—10.

Now this wall was overlaid with fine gold. Gold is here a figure of the righteousness of Christ, by which we are justified in the sight of God. Therefore you read, that his church, as justified, is said to stand at his righthand in cloth of gold. Upon the righthand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir ; and again, her clothing is of wrought gold, Psalm xlv. 9, 13. This the wall was overlaid with ; this the body of Christ was filled with. Men, while in the temple, were clothed with gold, even with the gold of the temple ; and men in Christ are clothed with righteousness, the righteousness of Christ ; [or the righteousness of faith in Christ.] Wherefore this consideration doth yet more illustrate the matter.

In that the palm-trees were set on this wall, it may be to shew that the elect are fixed in Jesus, and so shall abide for ever.

Chains were also carved on these walls, yea, and they were golden chains. There were chains on the pillars, and now also we find chains upon the walls, Phil. i. 12, 13.

Chains were used to hold one captive ; and such Paul did wear at Rome, but he calls them his bands in Christ.

2. Chains sometimes signify great afflictions, which God lays on us for our sins, Psalm cvii. 9—11 ; Lam. i. 14, ch. iii. 7.

3. Chains also may be more mystically understood, as of those obligations which the love of God lays upon us to do and suffer for him, Acts xx. 22.

4. Chains do sometimes signify beauty and comely ornaments ; thy neck, saith Christ to his spouse, is comely with chains of gold : And again, I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain about thy neck, Song i. 10 ; Ezek. xiv. 8—11 ; Prov. i. 9.

5. Chains also do sometimes denote greatness and honour, such as Daniel had when the king made him the third ruler in the kingdom, Dan. v. 7, 16, 29.

Now all these are temple chains and are put upon us for good ; some to prevent our ruin, some to dispose our minds the better, and some to dignify and make us noble,—temple chains are brave chains. None but temple worshippers must wear temple chains.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Of the Garnish of the Temple with Precious Stones.

AND he garnished the house with precious stones for beauty, 2 Chron. iii. 6, 7.

1. This is another ornament to the temple of the Lord; wherefore, as he saith, it was garnished with them for beauty. The line saith, garnished, the margin saith, covered.

2. Wherefore I think they were fixed as stars, or as the stars in the firmament, so they were set in the ceiling of the house, as in the heaven of the holy temple.

3. And thus fixed, they do the more aptly tell us of what they were a figure, namely, of the ministerial gifts and offices in the church. For ministers, as to their gifts and office, are called stars of God, and are said to be in the hand of Christ, Rev. i. 20.

4. Wherefore, as the stars glitter and twinkle in the firmament of heaven, so do true ministers in the firmament of his church, 1 Chron. xxxix, 2; John v. 35; Dan. xii. 2.

5. So that it is said again, these gifts come down from above, as signifying, they distil their dew from above. And hence again, the ministers are said to be set over us in the Lord, as placed in the firmament of his heaven, to give a light upon his earth. There is gold, and a

multitude of rubies, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel, Prov. xx. 15.

Verily it is enough to make a man in this house look always upward, since the ceiling above head doth thus glitter with precious stones.

Precious stones, all manner of precious stones, stones of all colours: For there are divers gifts, differences of administrations, and diversities of operations: But it is the same God which worketh all in all, 1 Cor. xii. 4—6.

Thus had the ceiling of this house a pearl here, and there a diamond; here a jasper, and there a sapphire; here a sardius, and there a jacinth; here a sardonix, and there an amethyst; For to one is given by the Spirit, the word of wisdom; to another, the word of knowledge; to one, the gift of healing; to another, faith; to this man, to work miracles; that, a spirit of prophecy; to another, the discerning of spirits; to another, divers kinds of tongues, 1 Cor. xii. 8—11.

He also overlaid the house, beams, posts, walls, doors, &c. and all with gold. O what a beautiful house the temple was! how full of glory was it! And yet all was but a shadow, a shadow of things to come, and which was to be answered in the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of truth, by better things than these.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Of the Windows of the Temple.

AND for the house he made windows of narrow lights, 1 Kings iv. 4. There were windows for this house, windows for the chambers, and windows round about, Ezek. iv. 16, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 33, 36.

These windows were of several sizes, but all narrow without, but wider within ; they also were finely wrought, and beautified with goodly stones, Isa. liv. 14.

1. Windows, as they are to an house an ornament, so also to it they are a benefit. Truly the light is good, and a pleasant thing : it is for the eye to behold the sun, Eccl. xi. 7. The window is that which Christ looks forth at, the window is that which the sun looks in at, Song. ii. 9.

2. By the light which shines in at the window, we also see to make and keep the house clean, and also to do what business is necessary there to be done. In thy light we see light ; light to our duty, and that both to God and man.

3. These windows therefore were figures of the written word, by and through which Christ shews himself to his, and by which we also apprehend him. And hence the word of God is compared to a glass, through which the light doth come, and by which we see not only the

beams of the sun, but our own smutches also, 2 Chron. iii. 18 ; James i. 23—25.

4. The lights indeed were narrow, wherefore we see also through their anti-type but darkly and imperfectly. Now we see through a glass darkly, or as in a riddle ; now we know but in part, 1 Cor. xiii. 12.

5. Their windows and their light are but of little service to those that are without. The world sees but little of the beauty of the church by the light of the written word, though the church by that light, can see the dismal state of the world, and also how to avoid it.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Of the Chambers of the Temple.

IN the temple Solomon made chambers, 1 Kings vi. 5.

1. The chambers were of several sizes ; some little, some large ; some higher, some lower ; some more inward, and some outward.

2. These chambers were for several services ; some were for rest, some to hide in, some to lay up treasure in, and some for solace and delight, 2 Chron. iii. 9 ; Ezek. xl. 7, ch. xli. 5, 9, 44 ; 2 Chron xxxi. 11, 12 ; 2 Kings xi. 1, 2, 3 ; Ezra viii. 29.

1. They were for resting places. Here the priests and porters were wont to lodge.

2. They were for hiding places. Here Jehosheba hid Joash from Athaliah the term of six years.

3. They were also to lay the temple treasure, or dedicated things in, that they may be safely kept there for the worshippers.

4. And some of them were for solace and delight ; and I must add, some for durable habitation. Wherefore, in some of them some dwelt always, yea, their names dwelt there when they were dead.

1. Those of them which were for rest, were types of that rest which by faith we have in the Son of God, Matt. xi. and of that eternal rest which we shall have in heaven by him, Heb. iv. 3.

2. Those chambers which were for hiding and security, were types of that safety which we have in Christ from the rage of the world, Isa. xxvi. 20.

3. Those chambers which were for the reception of the treasures and dedicated things, were types of Christ, as he is the common storehouse of believers : For it pleased the Father, that in him should all fulness dwell, and of his fulness we all receive, and grace for grace, John i. 16 ; Col. i. 19.

4. Those chambers that were for solace and delight, were types of those retirements and secret meetings of Christ with the soul, where he gives it his embraces, and delights her with his bosom and ravishing delights. He brought

me, said she, into his chambers, into the chamber of her which conceived me, and there he gave her his love, Song i. 4, ch. iii. 4.

5. The chambers which were for durable dwelling places, were types of those eternal dwelling places which were in the heavens, prepared of Christ and the Father for them that shall be saved, John xiv. 1—4; 2 Cor. v. 1—4.

This it is to dwell on high, and to be safe from fear of evil. Here therefore, you see, are chambers for rest, chambers for safety, chambers for treasure, chambers for solace, and chambers for durable habitations. O the rest and peace that the chambers of God's high house will yield to its inhabitants in another world! Here they will rest from their labours, rest upon their beds, rest with God, rest from sin, temptation, and all sorrow, Rev. xiv. 13; Isa. lvii. 1, 2; 2 Thess. i. 7.

God therefore then shall wipe all tears from our eyes, even when he comes out of his chambers as a bridegroom, to fetch his bride, his wife, unto him thither, to the end they may have eternal solace together.

O these are far better than the chambers of the south!

CHAPTER XXXV.

Of the Stairs by which they went up into the Chambers of the Temple.

THERE were stairs by which men went up into these chambers of the temple, and they were but one pair, and they went from below to the first, and so to the middle, and thence to the highest chambers in the temple, 1 Kings vi. 3 ; Ezek. xli. 7.

1. These stairs were winding, so that they turned about that did go up them. So then he that assayed to go into those chambers, must turn with the stairs, or he could not go up, no, not in the lowest chambers.

2. These stairs, therefore, were a type of a two-fold repentance : That by which we turn from nature to grace, and by which we turn from the imperfections which attend a state of grace to glory. Hence, true repentance, or the right going up these turning stairs, is called repentance to salvation ; for true repentance stoppeth not at the reception of grace, for that is but a going up these stairs to the middle chambers, 2 Cor. vii. 10.

Thus therefore, the soul, as it goes up these stairs turns and turns, till it enters the doors of the highest chambers.

It groans, though in a state of grace, because

that is not the state of glory. I count then, that from the first to the middle chambers, may be a type of turning from nature to grace. But from the middle to the highest, these stairs may signify a turning still from the imperfections and temptations that attend a state of grace, to that of immortality and glory, 2 Cor. v. 1—9.

For, as there are turning stairs from the lowest to the middle chambers, so the stairs from thence still turn, and so will do till you come to the highest chambers. I do not say, that they that have received grace, do repent they received grace ; but, I say, that they that have received grace, are yet sorry that grace is not consummate in glory. And hence they are for going up thither still by by these turning stairs ; yea, they cannot rest below as they would, till they ascend to the highest chambers. O wretched man that I am ! and in this we groan earnestly, is the language of gracious souls, 2 Cor. i. 2, 3.

True, every one doth not thus that comes into the temple of God ; many rest below stairs, they like not to go turning upward. Nor do I believe, that all that bid fair for ascending to the middle chambers, get up to the highest stories, to his stories in the heavens. Many in churches, who seem to be turned from nature to grace, have not the grace to go up turning still, but rest in that show of things, and so die below a share in the highest chambers.

All these things are true in the anti-type, and, as I think, prefigured by these turning stairs, to

the chambers of the temple. But this turning, and turning still, displeases some much ; they say, it makes them giddy. But I say, there is no way like this, to make a man stand steady, stedfast in the faith, and with boldness in the day of judgment ; for he has this in his heart, I went up by the turning stairs till I came to the highest chambers. A strait pair of stairs are like that ladder by which men ascend to the gallows ; they are the turning ones that lead us to the heavenly mansion-house. Look therefore, you that come into the temple of God to worship, that you stay not at the foot of these turning stairs, and go up thence, yea, up them, and up them, and up them, till you come to the view of the heavens ; yea, till you are possessed of the highest chambers. How many times has God, by the scripture, called upon you to turn, and told you, you must turn or die : and now here he has added to his call a figure, by placing a pair of turning stairs in his temple, to convict your very senses, that you must turn, if you mean to go up into his holy chambers, and so into his eternal mansion-house. And look that you turn to purpose, for every turning will not serve. Some turn, but not to the Most High, and so turn to no purpose.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Of the Molten-Sea that was in the Temple.

THERE was also a molten-sea in the temple, it was made of brass, and contained three thousand baths, 2 Chron. iv. 2 to 8.

This sea was for the priests to wash in, when they came into the temple to accomplish the service of God, to wash their hands and feet at, that they might not, when they came thither, die for their unpreparedness. The laver also which was in the wilderness, was of the same use there, Exod. xxviii.

1. It was, as may be supposed, called a sea, for that it was large to contain, and a sea of brass, for that it was made thereof. It is called in the Revelations, a sea of glass, alluding to that in the wilderness, which was made of the brazen looking glass, of the women that came to worship at the door of the tabernacle, Rev. iv. 6 ; ch. xv. 2 ; Exod. xxviii. 8.

It was also said to be molten, because it was made of that fashion by fire ; and its anti-type therefore said to be a sea of glass mingled with fire, Rev. xv. 2.

1. This sea was a figure of the word of the gospel, in the cleansing virtue of it ; which virtue then it has when mingled with the fire of the Holy Ghost. And to this Christ alludes,

when he saith, now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you, John xv. 3.

2. It was a figure of the word, without mixture of men's invention. Hence it is called pure water, having your bodies washed with pure water. And again, he sanctifies and cleanseth his church with the washing of water, by the word, Eph. v. 26 ; Tit. iii. 5.

All these places are an allusion to the molten sea, at which of old they washed when they went into the temple to worship. Therefore, saith he, being washed, let us draw near to God, Heb. x. 22.

3. This sea, from brim to brim, was complete ten cubits, perhaps to shew there is as much in the word of the gospel to save, as there is in the ten words to condemn.

4. From under this sea round about, appeared oxen, ten in a cubit did compass it round about, 2 Chron. v. 3. Understand by these oxen ministers, for to them they are compared in, 1 Cor. ix. 9. And thence we are taught whence true ministers come, to wit, from under the power of the gospel ; for this sea breeds gospel ministers, as the waters breed fish.

5. It is also said in the text, that these oxen were cast, when the sea was cast ; insinuating, that when God ordained a word of grace to save us, he also in his decree provided ministers to preach it to us to that end. Paul tells us, that he was made a minister of the gospel, according to God's eternal purpose, which he purposed in

Christ Jesus our Lord, Eph. iii. 9, 10, 11 ; Col. i. 25.

This sea is said to have a brim like the brim of a cup, to invite, as well to drink of its grace as to wash in its water ; for the word and spirit, when mixed, has not only a cleansing, but a saving quality in it, 2 Chron. iv. 1—5 ; 1 Cor. xv. 1, 2.

7. This brim was wrought with lillies, or was like a lilly flower, to shew how they should grow and flourish, and with what beautiful robes they should be adorned, who were washed and did drink of this holy water ; yea, that God would take care of them, as he also did of the lillies, and would not fail to bestow upon them what was necessary for the body, as well as for the soul, Matt. iv. 28—33.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

Upon what the Molten-Sea stood in the Temple.

THIS molten-sea stood upon the backs of twelve brazen bulls, or oxen, 2 Chron. iv. 4.

2. These oxen, as they stood, looked three towards the north, three towards the west, three towards the east, and three towards the south.

3. These twelve oxen were types of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, who, as these beasts stood looking into the four corners of the

earth, were bid to go preach the gospel in all the world.

4. They were compared to oxen, because they were clean, for the ox was a clean beast. Hence the apostles are called holy. They were compared to oxen, because the ox is strong, and they also were mighty in the word, Prov. xiv. 4 ; 2 Cor. xii. 12.

5. The ox will not lose what he has got by drawing : he will not let the wheels go back. So the apostles were set to defend, and not let that doctrine go back which they had preached to others, nor did they ; they delivered it pure to us.

6. One of the cherubs, of which you read in the vision, had a face like an ox, to shew that the apostles, these men of the first order, are most like the angels of God, Ezek. i. 10.

7. In that they stood with their faces every way, it was, as I said, to shew how the apostles should carry the gospel into all the world, Matt. xxviii. 19 ; Mark xvi.

8. And observe, just as these oxen were placed, looking in the temple every way, even so stand open the gates of the new Jerusalem, to receive those that by their doctrine should be brought into it. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God, Rev. xxi. 13, 14 ; Luke xiii. 29.

9. These oxen bear this molten-sea upon their backs, to shew, that they should be the foundation workmen of the gospel, and that it ought not to be removed, as was the molten-sea of old, from that basis to another.

10. It is also said concerning these oxen that thus did bear the molten sea, that all their hinder parts were inwards, that is, covered by that sea that was set upon their backs. Their hinder parts, or, as the apostle has it, our uncomely parts, 1 Cor. xii. 23, 24.

11. And indeed it becomes a gospel minister to have his uncomely parts covered with that grace which by the gospel he preacheth unto others. As Paul exhorts Timothy, to take heed unto himself, and to his doctrine, 1 Tim. iv. 6.

12. But, alas! there are too many, who, can they have their heads covered with a few gospel notions, care not though their hinder parts are seen of all the world. But such are false ministers, the prophet calls them the tail. The prophet that speaketh lies, either by word, or with his feet, he is the tail, Isa. ix. 15; Prov. vi. 12, 13.

13. But what a shame it is to hide his head under this molten-sea, while his hinder parts hang out. Such an one is none of Christ's oxen, for they, with honour to their master, shew their heads before all the world, for that their hinder parts are inward covered.

14. Look to thy hinder parts, minister, lest while thy mouth doth preach the gospel, thy

nakedness and shame be seen of those which hear thee.

For they that do not observe to learn this lesson themselves, will not teach others to believe the word nor live a holy life ; they will learn them to shew their shame, instead of learning to be holy.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Of the Lavers of the Temple.

BESIDES this the molten-sea, there were ten lavers in the temple, five of which were put on the right side, and five also on the left, 2 Chron. iv. 6,

1. Of their fashion and their furniture you may see, 1 Kings vii. These lavers, as the molten-sea, were vessels which contained water, but they were not of the same use with it. True, they were both to wash in ; the sea to wash the worshippers, but the lavers to wash the sacrifice. He made the ten lavers to wash in them such things as they offered for burnt offering, but the sea was for the priests to wash in, 2 Chron. iv. 6.

2. The burnt offering was a type of the body of Christ, which he once offered for our sins, and the fire on which the sacrifice was burned, a type of the curse of the law which seized on Christ, when he gave himself a ransom for us.

For therefore, that under the law was called the burnt offering, because of the burning upon the altar, Lev. iv. 8.

But what then must we understand by these lavers, and by this sacrifice being washed in them, in order to its being burned upon the altar ?

I answer, verily, I think that the ten lavers were a figure of the ten commandments ; in the purity and perfection of Christ's obedience, to which he became capable of being made a burnt offering, acceptable to God for the sins of his people. Christ was made under the law, and all his acts of obedience to God for us were legal ; and his living thus a perfect legal life, was his washing his offering in these ten lavers, in order to his presenting it upon the altar for our sins. The lavers went upon wheels, to signify walking feet ; and Christ walked in the law, and so became a clean offering to God for us. The wheels were of the very same as were the lavers ; to shew that Christ's obedience to the law, was of the same, as to length and breadth, with its commands and demands to their utmost tittle and extent. The inwards and legs of the burnt offering was to be washed in these lavers, Lev. i. 9, 13 ; 2 Chron. iv. 6, to shew that Christ should be pure and clean in heart and life.

We know that obedience, whether Christ's or ours, is called a walking in the way, typified by the lavers walking upon their wheels. But I

mean not by Christ his washing of his offering, that he had any filthiness cleaving to his nature or obedience. Yet this I say, that so far as our guilt laid upon him could impede, so far he wiped it off by washing in these lavers. For his offering was to be without blemish, and without spot to God. Hence it is said, he sanctified himself in order to his suffering; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him, John xvii. 19; Heb. v. 6, 10.

For, albeit he came holy into the world, yet that holiness was but preparatory to that by which he sanctified himself, in order to his suffering for sin: that then which was his immediate preparation for his suffering, was his obedience to the law, his washing in these lavers. He then first yielded complete obedience to the law on our behalf; and then, as so qualified, offered his washing sacrifice for our sins without spot, to God.

Thus therefore he was our burnt offering, washed in the ten lavers, that he might, according to law be accepted of the Lord.

And he set five of the lavers on the right side of the house, and five of them on the left. Thus were the ten divided, as the tables of the law, one shewing our duty towards God, the other our duty towards our neighbour; in both which the burnt offering was washed, that it might be clean in both respects.

They might also be thus placed, the better to put the people in mind of the necessity of the sanctification of Christ, according to the law, in order to his offering of himself an offering to God for us.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

Of the Tables of the Temple.

HE made also ten tables, and placed them in the temple, five on the right hand, and five on the left, 2 Chron. iv. 8.

Some, if not all of these tables, so far as I can see, were they on which the burnt offering was to be cut in pieces, in order to its burning.

Those tables were made of stone, of hewn stone, on which the work was done, Ezek. xl. 40 to 44.

Now, since the burnt offering was a figure of the body of Christ, the tables on which this sacrifice was slain, must needs, I think, be a type of the heart, the stony heart of the Jews. For had they not had hearts as hard as an adamant, they could not have done that thing.

Upon these tables therefore, was the death of Christ contrived, and this horrid murder acted, even upon those tables of stone.

In that they are called tables of hewn stone, it may be to shew, that all this cruelty was acted under smooth pretences, for hewn stone are

smooth. The tables were finely wrought with tools, even as the hearts of the Jews were with hypocrisy : but alas ! they were stone still, that is, hard and cruel, else they could not have been an anvil for satan to forge such horrid barbarism upon. The tables were in number the same with the lavers, and were set by them, to shew what are the fruits of being devoted to the law, as the Jews were, in opposition to Christ and his holy gospel : there flows nothing but hardness and a stony heart from thence. This was shewn in its first writing ; it was writ on tables of stone, figures of the heart of man ; and on the same tables or hearts, was the death of Jesus Christ compassed.

One would think, that the meekness, gentleness or good deeds of Jesus Christ, might have procured in them some relentings when they were about to take away his life ; but alas ! their hearts were tables of stone ! what feeling or compassion can a stone be sensible of ? Here were stony hearts, stony thoughts, stony counsels, stony contrivances, a stony law, and stony hands ; and what could be expected hence, but barbarous cruelty indeed ? I ask you, said Christ, you will not answer me, neither will you let me go, Luke xxii. 68.

In that the stony tables were placed about the temple, it supposeth that they were templemen, priests, scribes, rulers, lawyers, &c. that were to be the chief in whose hearts this mur-

der was to be designed, and by them enacted to their own damnation, without repentance.

CHAPTER XL.

Of the Instruments wherewith this Sacrifice was slain, and of the Four Tables they were laid on in the Temple.

THE instruments that were laid upon the tables in the temple, were not instruments of music, but those with which the burnt offerings were slain.

And the four tables were of hewn stone for the burnt offering ; whereon they also laid the instruments wherewith they slew the burnt offering and the sacrifice, Ezek. xl. 42, 43.

1. Here we are to take notice, that the tables are the same, and some of them of which we spake before.

That the instruments with which they slew the sacrifice, was laid upon these tables.

The instruments with which they slew the sacrifices, what were they but a bloody axe, bloody knives, bloody hooks, and bloody hands ? For those we need no proof, matter of fact declares it.

But what were those instruments a type of ?

Answer. Doubtless they were a type of our sins. They were the bloody axe, the knife, and bloody hands, that shed his precious blood.

They were the meritorious ones, without which he could not have died. When I say ours, I mean the sins of the world. Though then the hearts of the Jews were the immediate contrivers, yet they were our sins that were the bloody tools or instruments which slew the Son of God.

He was wounded for our transgressions, he died for our sins, Isa. liii ; 1 Cor. xv ; Gal. i.

Oh ! the instruments of us churls, by which this poor man was taken from off the earth, Isa. xxxii. 7 ; Prov. xxx. 14.

The whip, the buffetings, the crown of thorns, the nails, the cross, the spear, with the vinegar and gall, were all nothing in comparison of our sins. For the transgressions of my people was he stricken, Isa. liii. Nor were the flouts, taunts, mocks, scorns, derisions, &c. with which they followed him from the garden to the cross, such cruel instruments as these. They were our sins then, our cursed sins, by, with, and for the sake of which, the Lord Jesus became a bloody sacrifice.

But why must the instruments be laid upon the tables ?

1. Take the tables for the hearts of the murderers, and the instruments for their sins, and what place more fit for such instruments to be laid upon ? It is God's command, that these things should be laid to heart, and he complains of those that do not do it, Isaiah xlii. 25 ; chap. lvii. 11.

Nor are men ever like to come to good, until those instruments with which the Son of God was slain, indeed to be laid to heart. And they were eminently laid to heart, even by them, soon after; the effects of which was, the conversion of thousands of them, Acts ii. 36, 37.

Wherefore, when he says, those instruments must be laid upon the stony tables, he insinuates, that God would take a time to charge the murder of his Son home upon the consciences of them that did that murder, either to their conversion or condemnation. And is it not reason, that they who did this horrid villany, should have their doings laid before their faces, upon the tables of their heart, that they may look upon him whom they have pierced, and mourn, Zach. xii. 10; Rev. i. 7.

4. But these instrumments were laid but upon some of the tables, and not upon all the ten, to shew, that not all, but some of those so horrid, should find mercy of the Lord.

5. But we must not confine those tables only to the hearts of the bloody Jews; they were our sins, for the which he died: wherefore the instruments should be laid upon our tables too; and the Lord lay them there for good, that we also may see our horrid doings, and come bending to him for forgiveness.

6. These instruments thus lying on the tables in the temple, became a continual motive to God's people to repentance; for so oft as they saw those bloody and cruel instruments, they

were put in mind, how their sins should be the cause of the death of Christ.

7. It would be well also, if the instruments were at all times laid upon our tables, for our more humbling for our sins in every thing we do, especially upon the Lord's table, when we come to eat and drink before him. I am sure, the Lord Jesus doth more than intimate, that he expects that we should be so, where he saith, when ye eat that bread and drink that cup, do this in remembrance of me ; in remembrance that I died for your sins, and consequently, that they were the meritorious cause of the shedding of my blood. To conclude, let all men remember, that those cruel instruments are laid upon the tables of their hearts, whether they see them or not. The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond, upon the tables of their hearts, Jer. xvii. 1.

A pen of iron will make letters upon a table made of stone ; and the point of a diamond will made letters upon glass. Wherefore in this saying, God informs us, that if we shall forbear to read those lines to our conversion, God will one day read them against us to our condemnation.

CHAPTER XLI.

Of the Candlesticks of the Temple.

AND he made ten candlesticks of gold, according to the form, and he set them in the temple, five on the right hand, and five on the left, 2 Chron. iv. 7.

1. Those candlesticks were made of gold, to shew the worth and value of them.

2. They were made after the form, or exact, according to rule, like those that were made in the tabernacle, or according to the pattern which David gave to Solomon to make them by. Observe, there was great exactness in those, and need they was of this hint, that men might see, that every thing will not pass for a right ordered candlestick with God, Exod. xxv. 31 to 36 ; 1 Chron. xxviii. 15, 16.

Those candlesticks are said sometimes to be ten, sometimes seven, and sometimes one. Ten here ; seven, Rev. i. and one in Zach. iv. Ten is a note of multitude, and seven a note of perfection, and one a note of unity.

Now, as the precious stones with which the house was garnished, were a type of ministerial gifts, so these candlesticks were a type of those that were to be the churches of the New-Testament. Wherefore he says, the candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches, Rev. i. 12, 13, 20.

1. The candlesticks were here in number ten to shew that Christ under the New-Testament would have many gospel churches. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, saith he, will draw all men unto me ; that is, abundance : for the children of the desolate, that is, of the New-Testament church, shall be many more than they of the Jews were, John xii. 32 ; Gal. iv. 27.

2. In that the candlesticks were set by the lavers and stony table, it might be to shew us, that Christ's churches should be much in considering that Christ, though he was righteous, yet died for our sins ; though his life was according to the holy law, yet our stony hearts caused him to die. Yea, and that the candlesticks are placed there, it is to shew us also, that we should be much in looking on the sins by which we caused him to die, for the candlesticks were set by those tables whereon they laid the instruments with which they slew the sacrifice.

3. These candlesticks being made according to form, seem not only to be exact as to fashion, but also as to work. For that in Exodus, with its furniture, was made precisely of one talent of gold ; (perhaps to shew that Christ's true spouse is not to be a grain more, nor a dram less, but just the number of God's elect. This is Christ's completeness, his fulness ; one more, one less, would make his body a monster.)

4. The candlesticks were to hold the lights, and to shew it to all the house, and the church is to let her light so shine, that they without may see the light, Matt. v. 15, 16; Luke viii. 16; ch. xi. 33; ch. xii. 35.

5. To this end the candlesticks were supplied with olive oil, a type of the supply the church hath, that her light may shine, even of the spirit of grace.

CHAPTER XLII.

Of the Lamps belonging to the Candlesticks of the Temple.

To these candlesticks belonged several lamps, with their flowers, and their knops, 2 Chron. iv. 21.

1. These lamps were types of that profession that the members of the church do make of Christ, whether such members have saving grace or not, Matt. xxv. 1—7.

2. These lamps were beautified with knops and flowers, to shew how comely and beautiful that professor is, that adorns his profession with a suitable life and conversation.

3. We read that the candlesticks in Zacharias had seven lamps belonging to it, and a bowl of golden oil on the top, and that by golden pipes, this golden oil emptied itself into the lamps, and

all, doubtless that the lamps might shine, Zach. iv.

4. Christ therefore, who is the high priest, and to whom it belongs to dress the lamps, doth dress them accordingly. But now there are lamp carriers of two sorts, such as have only oil in their lamps, and such as have oil in their lamps and vessels too, and both these belong to the church, and in both these Christ will be glorified. And they shall have their proper places at last. They that have the oil of grace in their hearts, as well as a profession of Christ in their hands, they shall go in with him to the wedding, but they who only make a profession, and have not oil in their vessels, will surely miscarry at last, Matt. xxv.

5. Wherefore, O thou professor! thou lamp-carrier! have a care and look to thyself; content not thyself with that only, that will maintain thee in a profession, for that may be done without saving grace. But I advise thee to go to Aaron, to Christ, the trimmer of our lamps, and beg thy vessel full of oil of him, (that is grace,) for the seasoning of thy heart, that thou mayest have wherewith, not only to bear thee up now, but at the day of the bridegroom's coming, when many a lamp will go out, and many a professor left in the dark, for that will to such be a woful day, Lev. xxiv. 2; Matt. xxv.

Some there are, that are neither for lamps nor oil for themselves, neither are they pleased if they think they see it in others. But they that

have lamps, and they that have none, and they which have blown out other folk's light, must shortly appear to give an account of all their doings to God. And then they shall see what it is to have oil in their vessels and lamps, and what it is to be without it in their vessels, though it is in their lamps ; and what a dismal thing it is to be a malignant to either ; but at present let this suffice.

CHAPTER XLIII.

Of the Shew-bread on the Golden Table in the Temple.

THERE was also shew-bread set upon a golden table in the temple, 1 Kings vii. 48. The shew-bread consisted of twelve cakes made of fine flour, two tenth deals was to go to one cake, and they were to be set in order in two rows upon the pure table, Levit. xxiv. 5—7.

1. These twelve loaves, to me, do seem to be a type of the twelve tribes under the law, and of the children of God under the gospel, as they present themselves before God, in and by his ordinances, through Christ. Hence the apostle says, for we being many, are one bread, &c. 1 Cor. x. 17. For so were the twelve cakes, though twelve, and so are the gospel saints, though many. For we being many are one body in Christ, Rom. xii. 5.

2. But they were a type of the true church, not of the false. For Ephraim, who was the head of the ten tribes on their apostacy, is rejected, as a cake not turned. Indeed he is called a cake, as a false church may be called a church; but he is called a cake not turned, as a false church is not prepared for God, nor fit to be set on the golden table before him, Hosea vii. 8.

3. These cakes or shew-bread, was to have frankincense strewed upon them, as they stood upon the golden table, which was a type of the sweet perfumes of the sanctifications of the Holy Ghost. To which I think Paul alludes, when he says, the offering up of the Gentiles is acceptable to God, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, Rom. xv. 16.

4. They were to be set upon the pure table, new, and hot, to shew that God delighted in the company of new and warm believers. I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth: When Israel was a child I loved him. Men, at first conversion, are like to a cake well baked and new taken from the oven; they are warm, and cast forth a very fragrant scent, especially when as warm sweet incense is strewed upon them, Jer. ii; Hos. xi.

5. When the shew-bread was old and stale, it was to be taken away, and new and warm put in its place, to shew that God has but little delight in the service of his own people, when their duties grow stale and mouldy. Therefore

he removed his old, stale, mouldy, church of the Jews from before him, and set in their room upon the golden table, the warm church of the Gentiles.

6. The shew-bread by an often remove, and renewing, was continually to stand before the Lord in his house, to shew us, that always, as long as ordinances shall be of use, God will have a new, warm, and sanctified people to worship him.

7. Aaron and his sons were to eat the old shew-bread, to shew, that when saints have lived in the world, as long as living is good for them, and when they can do no more service for God in the world, they shall yet be accepted of Jesus Christ, and that it shall be as meat and drink to him, to save them from all their unworthinesses.

8. The new shew-bread was to be set even on the Sabbath before the Lord. To shew with what warmth of love and affections God's servants should approach his presence upon his holy day.

CHAPTER XLIV.

Of the Snuffers belonging to the Candlesticks and Lamps of the Temple.

As there were candlesticks and lamps, so there were snuffers also prepared for these in the

temple of the Lord. And the snuffers were snuffers of gold, 1 Kings vi. 50.

1. Snuffers : The use of snuffers is to trim the lamps and candles, that their lights may shine the brighter.

2. Snuffers, you know, are biting, pinching things, but use them well, and they will prove not only beneficial to those within the house, but profitable to the lights.

Snuffers ; you may say of what they were a type ?

Answer. If our snuffs are our superfluities of naughtiness ; our snuffers then are those righteous reproofs, rebukes and admonitions, which Christ has ordained to be in his house for good ; or, as the apostle hath it, for our edification ; and perhaps, Paul alludes to these, when he bids Titus to rebuke the Cretians sharply, that they might be sound in the faith, Tit. i. 12, 13.

As who should say, they must use the snuffers of the temple to trim their lights withal, if they burn not well. These snuffers therefore are of great use in the temple of God ; only, as I said, they must be used wisely. It is not for every fool to handle snuffers, at, or about the candles, lest perhaps, instead of mending the light, they put the candle out. And therefore Paul bids them that are spiritual do it, Gal. vi. 1. My reason tells me, that if I use these snuffers as I should, I must not only endeavour to take the

superfluous snuff away; but so to do it, that the light thereby be amended; which then is done, if, as the apostle saith, I use sharpness to edification, and not for destruction, 1 Cor. v. 4, 5; 2 Cor. xii. 10.

Are not the seven churches in Asia called by the name of candlesticks? And why candlesticks, if they were not to hold the candles? and candles must have snuffers therewith to trim the lights. And Christ, who is our true Aaron, in those rebukes which he gave those churches, alluding to these snuffers, did it, that their light might shine the brighter, Rev. ii. and iii. chapters.

Wherefore, as he used them, he did it still with caution to their light, that it might not be impaired. For as he still thus trimmed these lamps, he yet encouraged what he saw would shine, if he helped. He only nipped the snuff away.

Thus therefore he came to them with these snuffers in his hand, and trimmed their lamps and candlesticks, Rev. ii. 4, 20, chap. iii. 2, 15.

This should teach ministers, to whom it belongs, under Christ, to use these snuffers well. Strike at the snuff, not at the light, in all your rebukes and admonitions; snuff not your lamps of a private revenge, but of a design to nourish grace and gifts in churches. Thus our Lord himself says he did, in his using of these snuffers about these candlesticks, As many, said he,

as I love, I rebuke and chasten ; be zealous, therefore, and repent, Rev. iii. 19.

To conclude : Watchmen, watch, and let not your snuffs be too long, nor pull them off with your fingers or carnal reasonings, but with godly admonitions, &c. Use your snuffers graciously, curb vice, nourish virtue ; so ye will use them well, and so your light will shine to the glory of God.

CHAPTER XLV:

Of the Snuff-dishes that were with the Snuffers in the Temple.

As there were snuffers, so there were also snuff dishes in the temple. And they were also made of gold, Exod. xxv. 28, ch. xxxvii. 23 ; Numb. iv. 9. The snuff-dishes were those in which the snuffs were put when snuffed off, and by which they were carried forth of the temple. They therefore, as the snuffers are, are of great use in the temple of God.

1. By them the golden floor of the temple is kept from being daubed by the snuffs.

2. By them also the clean hands of those that worship there, are kept from being defiled.

3. By them also the stink of the snuffs is soonest suppressed in the temple, and consequently the tender noses of them that worship there, preserved from being offended.

Snuffs, ye know, are daubing things, stinking things, nauseous things ; therefore we must take heed that they touch not this floor on which we walk, nor defile the hands which we lift up to God, when we come to worship him. But how must this be done, but as we take them off with the snuffers, and put them in these snuff dishes ?

Some are for being at the snuffs with their fingers, and will also cast them at their feet, and daub the floor of God's holy house, but usually such do burn as well as defile themselves. But is it not a shame for a man to defile himself with the vice which he rebukes in another ? Let us then, while we are taking away the snuffs of others, hate even the garment spotted by the flesh, and labour to carry such stink with the snuff dishes, out of the temple of God.

Snuff-dishes you may say, what are they ?

I answer, If sin are the snuffs, and rebukes, and admonitions the snuffers, then, methinks, repentance, or in case that be wanting, the censures of the church should be the snuff-dishes.

Hence, repentance is called a church cleansing grace, and the censures of the church, a purging out of the old leaven, and making it a new lump, 1 Cor. v ; 2 Cor. vii. 11.

Ah ! were these snuff-dishes more of use in the churches, we should not have this man's snuff defile that man's fingers as it doth ; nor would the temple of God be so bedaubed with snuffs as it is.

Ah ! snuffs pulled off, lie still on the temple

floor, and there stink, and defile both feet and fingers, both the castings and conversations of temple worshippers, to the disparaging of religion, and of making the religious worship but of low esteem with men. And all, I say, for want of the due use of these snuffers, and the snuff-dishes there.

Nay, are not whole churches now defiled with those very snuffs that long since were plucked off, and all for want of the use of these snuff-dishes, according to the Lord's commandment. For you must know that reproofs and admonitions are but of small use, where repentance, or church censures are not thereto annexed. When ministers use the snuffers, the people should use the snuff-dishes.

Round reproofs for sin, when they light upon penitent hearts, then brave work is in the church: Then the snuff is not only pulled away, but carried out of the temple of God aright, &c.

And now the worship and worshippers shine like gold. As an ear-ring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprovcr upon an obedient ear, Prov. xxv. 12.

Ministers, it appertains to you to use the snuffers, and to teach the people to hold the snuff dishes right, Acts xx. 20, 21; 1 Tim. iv. 2. We must often be snuffed with these snuffers, or our light will burn but dimly, our candle will also waste: Pray, therefore, O men of God, look diligently to your people, snuff them as you see there is need, but touch not their snuff with

your white fingers ; a little smutch on you will be seen a great way. Remember also that you leave them no where, but with these snuff-dishes, that the temple may be cleared of them.

Do with the snuff as the neat house-wife doth with the toad which she finds in her garden ; She takes the fork or a pair of tongs, and therewith doth throw it over the pales. Cast them away, I say, with fear, zeal, care, revenge, and with great indignation : And then your, church, your conversation, your fingers, and all, will be kept white and clean.

CHAPTER XLVI.

Of the Golden Tongs belonging to the Temple.

THERE was also tongs of gold used in the temple of old, 1 Kings vii. 49.

1. These tongs were used about the altar, to order the fire there.

2. They were used too about the candlesticks, and are therefore called his tongs.

3. Perhaps there were tongs for both these services, but of that the word is silent.

But what were they used about the candlestick to do ?

Answer. To take the holy fire from off the altar to light the lamps withal. For the fire of the temple was holy fire, such as at first was kindled from heaven, and when kindled, main-

tained by the priests ; and of that the lamps were lighted, Lev. ix. 24 ; 2 Cor. vii. 1.

Nor was there upon pain of death, any other fire to be used there, Lev. x. 1. These tongs therefore were used to take fire from off the altar, to light the lamps and candlesticks withal. For to trim the lights, and dress the lamps, was Aaron's work, day by day, Numb. viii. 3. He shall light and order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the Lord, and Aaron did so ; he lighted the seven lamps thereof, as the Lord commanded Moses.

What is a lamp or candlestick to us, if there be not light thereon, and how lighted without fire ? And how shall we take up coals to light the lamps withal, if we have not tongs prepared for that purpose ?

With these tongs fire also was taken from off the altar, and put into the censers, to burn sweet incense with, before the Lord. The tongs then were of great use in the temple of the Lord.

But what were the tongs a type of ?

The altar, was a type of Christ ; the fire, of the Holy Ghost ; and those tongs were a type of that holy hand of God's grace, by which the coals, or several dispensations, and gifts of his Holy Ghost are taken and given to the church, and to her members, for her work and profit in this world.

Tongs, we know, are used instead of fingers ; wherefore Aaron's golden tongs were a type of Christ's golden fingers, Song v. 14.

Isaiah saith, that one of the seraphims flew to him with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar. Here the type and anti-type, to wit, tongs and hands, are put together, Isa. vi. But the prophet Ezekiel, treating of the like matters, quite waves the type, the tongs, and speaketh only of his holy hand. And he spake to the man clothed with linen, and said, go in between the wheels under the cherub, (where the mercy-seat stood where God dwelt, Exod. ii. Psal. lxxx. 1,) and fill thy hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, Ezek. x. 2.

Thus you see our golden tongs are now turned into a golden hand; into the golden hand of the man clothed in linen, which is Jesus Christ, who at his ascension, received of God the Father, the spirit in all fulness, to give, as his divine wisdom knew was best, the several coals or dispensations thereof unto his church, for his praise and her edification, Acts ii.

It is by this hand also, that this holy fire is put into our censers. It is this hand also that takes this coal therewith to touch the lips of ministers, that their words may warm like fire. And it is by this hand that the Spirit is given to the churches as returns of their holy prayers, Luke xi. 1, 2; Rom. viii. 26.

It was convenient that fire in the temple should be disposed of by golden tongs, but the Holy Ghost, by the golden hand of Christ's grace, for that can wittingly dispose of it, ac

ording as men and things are placed, and to do and be done in the churches. Wherefore, he adds, and one cherub stretched forth his hand from between the cherubims unto the fire that was between the cherubims, and took thereof, and put it into the hands of him that was clothed with linen, who took it, and went out, Ezek. x. 7.

By this hand then, by this man's hand, the coals of the altar are disposed of, both to the lamps, the candlesticks, the censers, and the lips of ministers, according to his own good pleasure. And of all this was the tongs in the temple a type.

CHAPTER XLVII.

Of the Altar of Incense in the Temple.

THE altar of incense was made first for the tabernacle, and that of shittim-wood, but it was made for the temple, of cedar, and it was to be set before the vail, that is, by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy-seat; that is, at the entering of the holiest, but not within. And the priest was to approach it every morning, which, as to the holiest he might not do. Besides, when he went in to make an atonement, he was to take fire from off that altar, to burn his incense within the holy place, Exod. xxx. 4 to 10; Lev. xvi. 18.

1. It was called the golden altar, because it

was overlaid with pure gold. This altar was not for burnt offering, as the brazen altar was not for the meat-offering nor the drink offering, but to burn incense thereon, ver. 7, which sweet incense was a type of the grace of prayer, Psalm cxli. 2.

2. Incense, or that called incense here, was not a simple but a compound, made up of sweet spices, called stacte, onycha, and galbanum; these three may answer to these three parts of duty, to wit, prayer, supplication, and intercession, Exod. xxx. 34 to 37.

3. This incense was to be burned upon the altar every morning, upon that altar which was called the altar of incense, which was before the vail, to shew, that it is our duty every morning to make our prayer to God by Jesus Christ before the vail; that is, before the door of heaven, and there to seek, knock, and ask, for what we need, according to the word, Luke xi. 9 to 12.

4. This incense was to be kindled every morning, to shew how he continueth interceding for us; and also that all true praise of men to God, is by the word, the renewed work of the Holy Ghost upon our hearts, Rom. viii. 26.

5. Incense, as you see, was made of sweet spices, such as were gummy, and so apt to burn with a smoke, to shew, that not cold and flat, but hot and fervent is the prayer that flows from the spirit of faith and grace, Zach. xii. 10; Jer. v. 16.

6. The smoke of this incense was very sweet and savoury, like pleasant perfume ; to shew how delightful and acceptable the very sound and noise of right prayer is unto the nostrils of the living God, because it comes from a broken heart, Psalm li. 17 ; Song ii. 14.

7. This incense was to be offered upon the golden altar, to shew us that no prayer is accepted, but what is directed to God in the name of his holy and blessed Son our Saviour, 1 Pet. ii. 5 ; Heb. xiii. 15.

8. They were commanded to burn incense every morning upon this altar, to shew that God is never weary of the godly prayers of his people. It also sheweth, that we need every day to go to God for fresh supplies of grace, to carry us through this evil world.

9. This altar, though it stood without the veil, to teach us to live by faith, and to make use of the name of Christ, as we find it recorded in the first temple, yet was placed so nigh unto the holiest, that the smell of the smoke might go in thither, to shew, that it is not distance of place that can keep the voice of true prayer from our God, the God of heaven, but that he will be taken with what we ask for according to his word.

• It stood, I say, nigh the vail, nigh the holiest ; and he that burnt incense there, did make his approach to God. Hence the Psalmist, when he speaks of praying, saith, It is good for me

to draw nigh unto God, Psal. lxxii. 20 ; Heb. x. 22.

10. This altar, thus placed, did front the ark within the vail, to put us in mind, that the law is kept therein from hurting us ; to let us know also, that the mercy seat is above, upon the ark, and that God doth sit thereon, with his pardon in his hand to save us. O what speaking things are types, shadows, and parables, had we but eyes to see, had we but ears to hear !

He that did approach the altar with incense of old, aright, (and then he did so, when he approached it by Aaron his high priest,) pleased God ; how much more shall we have both person and prayers accepted, and a grant of what we need, if indeed we come as we should to God, by Jesus Christ.

But take heed you approach not to a wrong altar ; take heed also that you come not with strange fire, for they are dangerous things, and cause the worshippers to miss of what they would enjoy. But more of this in the next particular.

CHAPTER XLVIII.

Of the Golden Censers belonging to the Temple

THERE were also golden censers belonging to the temple ; and they were either such as belonged to the sons of Levi in general, or that

were for Aaron and his sons in special, Numb. vi. 16—18.

The censers of the Levites were a type of ours ; but the censer of Aaron was a type of Christ's.

The censers, as was hinted before, were for this use in the temple, namely, to hold the holy fire in, on which incense was to be burned before the Lord, Lev. x. 1.

These censers then were types of hearts ; Aaron's golden one was a type of Christ's golden heart, and the censers of the Levites were types of other worshippers hearts.

The fire also which was put therein was a type of that spirit by which we pray, and the incense that burnt thereon, a type of our desires.

Of Christ's censer, we read, Rev. viii. which is always filled with much incense ; that is, with continual intercessions, which he offered to God for us, and from whence also there always goes a cloud of sweet savour, covering the mercy-seat, Lev. xvi. 13 ; Heb. vii. 25 ; Rev. viii. 3, 4.

But to speak of the censers, and fire, and incense of the worshippers, for albeit, they were all put under one rule, that is, to be according to law, yet oftentimes as were the worshippers, such were the censers, fire, and incense.

1. Hence the two hundred and fifty censers with which Corah and his company offered, are

called the censers of sinners ; for they came with wicked hearts then to burn incense before the Lord, Numb. xvi. 19.

2. Again, the censers of these men were called the censers of sinners ; shewing they came at that time to God with naughty hearts ; so the fire that was in Nadab and Abihu's censers is called strange fire, which the Lord commanded them not, Lev. x. 1.

3. This strange fire was a type of that strange spirit, opposed to the spirit of God, in and by which, notwithstanding, some adventure to perform worship to God.

4. Again, As these censers are called the censers of sinners, and this fire called strange fire, so the incense of such is called strange, and is said to be an abomination unto God, Exod. xxx. 9 ; Isa. i. 13.

Thus you see that both the censers, fire and incense, of some is rejected even as the heart ; spirit, and prayer of sinners are an abomination unto God, Hos. vii. 14, ch. iv. 12, ch. v. iv ; Prov. xxviii. 9.

But there were besides these, true censers, holy fire, and sweet incense, among the worshippers in the temple ; and their service was accepted by Aaron their high-priest ; for that was through the faith of Christ, and these were types of our true gospel worshippers, who come with holy hearts, the holy Spirit, and holy desires before their God by their Redeemer. These are a perfume in his nose. The prayer

of the upright is his delight. David's prayers went up like incense, and the lifting up of his hands, as the evening sacrifice, Prov. xv. 8; Psal. cxli. 2.

Let them then that pretend to worship before God in his holy temple, look to it, that both their censers, fire, and incense, heart, spirit, and desires, be such as the word requires, lest, instead of receiving gracious returns from the God of heaven, their censers be laid up against them; lest the fire of God devour them, and their incense become an abomination to him, as it happened to those made mention of before.

But it is said, the censers of Corah and his companions were hallowed.

Answer. So is God's worship, which is so by his ordination; yet, even that very worship may be spoiled by man's transgression. Prayer is God's ordinance, but all prayer is not accepted of God. We must then distinguish between the things commanded, and our using of that thing. The temple was God's house, but was abused by the irreverence of those that worshipped there, even to the demolishing of it.

A golden censer is a gracious heart, heavenly fire, is the Holy Ghost, and sweet incense, the effectual fervent prayer of faith. Have you these? These God expects, and these you must have, if ever your persons or performances be of God accepted.

CHAPTER XLIX.

Of the Golden Spoons of the Temple.

THE golden spoons belonging to the temple, were in number, according to Moses, twelve, answering to the twelve tribes. But when the temple was built, I suppose they were more, because of the number of the basons, Numb. vii. 14, 20, 26, 32, 38, 40, 50, 56, 62, 68, 74, 80, 86.

2. The spoons, as I suppose, were for the worshippers in the temple, to eat that broth withal wherein the trespass offerings were boiled. For which purpose there were several cauldrons hanging in the corners of that court, called the priest's, to boil them in, 1 Sam. ii. 13, 14; Ezek. xlvi. 19, 20.

3. Now, in that he saith here were spoons, what is it, but there were also babes in the temple of the Lord? There was broth for babes, as well as meat for men, and spoons to eat the broth withal.

4. True, the gospel being more excellent than the law, doth change the term, and instead of broth, saith there is milk for babes. But in that he saith, milk, he insinuates, there are spoons for children in the church.

5. I could not, saith Paul to them at Corinth, speak to you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed

with milk, and not with meat, for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able, 1 Cor. iii. 1, 2.

6. See, here was need of spoons, milk is spoon meat ; for here were those which could not feed themselves with milk ; let them then that are men eat the strong meat, for every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. For strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, who, by reason of use, have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil, Heb. vi. 13, 14.

7. Spoons, you know, are to feed us with weak and thin food, even with that which best suiteth with weak stomachs, or with a babish temper. Hence, as the strong man is opposed to the weak, so the milk is opposed to the strong meat.

8. So then, though the babe in Christ is weaker than the man in Christ, yet he is not by Christ left unprovided for ; for here is milk for babes, and spoons to eat it with. All this is taught us by the spoons, for what need is there of spoons, where there is nothing to eat but strong meat ?

9. Babes, you know, have not only babish stomachs, but also babish tricks, and must be dealt withal as babes ; their childish talk, and childish carriages must be borne withal.

10. Sometimes they cry for nothing ; yea, and count them their foes who rebuke their childish toys and ways ; all which the church

must bear, because they are God's babes ; yea, must feed them too. For if he has found them milk and spoons, it is that they may be fed therewith, and live. Yea, grown ministers are God's nurses, wherefore they must have a lap to lay them in, and knees to dandle them upon, and spoons to feed them with.

11. Nor are the babes but of use in the church of God, for he commands that they be brought to cry with the congregation before the Lord, for mercy for the land, Joel ii. 16.

12. Incense, I told you, was a type of prayers, and the spoons, in the time of Moses, were presented at the table full of it. Perhaps to shew that God will, with the milk which he has provided for them, give it to them as a return of their crying to him, even as the nurse gives the child the teat and milk.

13. You know the milk is called for, when the child is crying, as we say, to stop its mouth with it. O babes ! did you but cry soundly, God would give you yet more milk.

But what were these golden spoons a type of ?

I answer, if the milk is the juice and consolation of the word, then the spoons must be those soft sentences and golden conclusions, with which the ministers feed their souls by it. I have fed you, said Paul, with the milk of the word ; saith Peter, even as you have been able to bear it. Compare these two or three texts, 1 Pet. ii. 1—3 ; 1 Cor. iii. 2 ; 1 Thess. ii. 7.

14. And this is the way to strengthen the weak hands, and to confirm the feeble knees. This is the way to make them grow to be men, who now are but as infants of days. Thus a little one may become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. Yea, thus in time, you may make a little child to jostle it with a leopard; yea, to take a lion by the beard; yea, thus you may embolden him to put his hand to the hole of the asp, and to play before the den of the cockatrice, Isa. xi. 6—8, ch. xl. 22.

Who is the most stout, was once a babe; he that can now eat meat, was sometimes glad of milk, and to be fed with the spoon. Babes in Christ therefore must not be despised, nor overlooked. God has provided them milk, and spoons to eat it with, that they may grow to be men before him.

CHAPTER L.

Of the Bowls and Basons belonging to the Temple.

As there were spoons, so there were bowls and basons belonging to the temple. Some of these were of gold, and some of silver; and when they were put together, their number was four hundred and forty. These you read of Ezra i. 10.

The bowls or basons were not to wash in, as were the sea and lavers of the temple, they were rather to hold the messes in, which the priests at their holy feasts, did use to set before the people. This being so, they were types of that proportion of faith, by which, or by the measure of which, every man receiveth of the holy food, for the nourishment of his soul. For as a man had a thousand messes set before him, he, eating for his health, cannot go beyond what his stomach will bear ; so neither can the child of God, when he comes to worship at the temple of God, receive of the good things that are beyond the proportion of his faith ; or, as it is in another place, according to the ability which God giveth, Rom. xii. 6 ; 1 Pet. iv. 11.

And hence it is, at the self same ordinance, some receive three times as much as others do ; for that their bowl, I mean their faith, is able to receive it. Yea, Benjamin's mess was five times as big as the mess of any of his brethren : and so it is with some saints, while they eat with their brother Joseph in the house of the living God.

There are three go to the same ordinance, and are all of them believers, who, when they come and compare notes, do find their receivings are not of the same quantity.

One says, I got but little ; the other says, it was a pretty good ordinance for me ; and the third says, I was exceeding well there. Why to be sure, he that had but little there, had there

but little faith ; but great faith in him would have received more. He had it then according to the largeness of his bowl, even according to his faith, even as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith, Rom. xii. 3.

Mark, faith is a certain measure, and that not only as to its degree, for that it can receive, retain, or hold what is put into it.

So then it is no matter how much milk or holy broth there is, but how big is thy bowl, thy faith. Little bowls hold but little, nor canst thou receive, but as thy faith will bear : (I speak now of God's ordinary dealing with his people.) For, so he saith in his word, According to thy faith be it unto thee, Matt. ix. 29.

If a man goeth to the ocean sea for water, let him carry but an egg-shell with him, and with that he shall not bring a gallon home. I know indeed, that our little pots have a promise of being made like the bowls of the altar ; but still our mess must be according to our measure, be that small, or be it great. The same prophet saith again, the saints shall be filled like bowls, as the corners of the altar ; which, though it supposes an enlargement, yet it must be confined to that measure of faith which is provided for its reception. And suppose these bowls should signify the promises, though the saints, in the promises, and compared to them, because they, not promises, are the subjects of faith, yet it is the promise of our measure of faith in that, that is nourishing to our souls.

When Ahasuerus made a feast to his subjects, they drank their wine in bowls. They did not drink it by the largeness of the vessel whence they drew it, but according to their health, and as their stomachs would so receive it, Esther i.

Thy faith then is one of the bowls or basons of the temple, by, or according to which, thou receivest thy mess, when thou sittest feasting at the temple of God.

And observe, all the bowls were not made of gold, as all faith is not of a saving sort. It is the golden faith that is right, the silver bowls were of an inferior sort, Rev. iii. 18.

Some, I say, have golden faith ; all faith is not so. Wherefore look to it, soul, that thy bowl, thy faith, be golden faith, or of the best kind. Look, I say, after a good faith, and great, for a great faith receives a great mess.

Of old, beggars did use to carry their bowls in their laps, when they went to a door for an alms ; consequently, if their bowls were but little, they oft-times came off by the loss, though the charity of the giver was large. Yea, the greater the charity, the larger the loss, because the beggar's bowl was too little. Mark it well, it is oft-times thus in the matters of our God.

Art thou beggar, a beggar at God's door? Be sure thou gettest a great bowl, for as thy bowl is, so will be thy mess. According to thy faith, saith he, be it unto thee, Matt. ix. 29.

CHAPTER LI.

Of the Flaggons and Cups of the Temple.

THE next thing to be considered is, the flaggons and cups of the temple ; of these we read, 1 Chron. xxviii. 17 ; Jer. lii. 19.

These were of great use among the Jews, especially on their feasting days, on their Sabbaths, new moons, and the like, Lev. xxiii. 13 ; Numb. xxviii. 7 : Chron. xvi. 3 ; Isa. xxv. 6, ch. lxii. 8, 9.

For instance, the day that David danced before the ark, he dealt among all the people, even to the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as to men, to every man a cake of bread, a good piece of flesh, and a flaggon of wine, 2 Sam. vi. 19 ; 1 Chron. xvi. 3.

In this mountain, that is, in the temple typically, saith the prophet, shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined, Isa. xxv. 6.

These are feasting times, the times in which our Lord used to have his spouse into his wine cellars and in which he used to display, with delight, his banner over his head in love, Song ii. 5.

The church of Christ, alas ! is of herself a very fickly, puny thing, a woman, a weaker ves-

sel, but how much more must she needs be so weak, when the custom of women is upon her, or when she is sick of love. Then she indeed has need of a draught, for she now sinks, and will not else be supported. Stay me with flaggons, saith she, and comfort me with apples, for I am sick of love, Song ii. 4, 5.

These flaggons, therefore, were types of those feastings, and of those large draughts of divine love, that the Lord Jesus draweth for, and giveth to his spouse in those days that he feasteth with her. For then he saith drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved. This he does to cheer her up under her hours of sadness and dejection; for now new corn makes the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids, Prov. xxvi. 6, 7; Psal. cxvi. 13; Jer. xvi. 7; Song v. 1; Zach. ix. 17.

As there were flaggons, so there were cups, and they are called cups of consolation, and cups of salvation; because, as I said, they were they by which God at his feasting with his people, or when he suppeth with them giveth out the more large draughts of his love to his saints, to revive the spirits of the humble, and to revive the hearts of the contrite ones. At these times God made David's cup run over. For we are now admitted, if our faith will bear it, to drink freely into his grace, and to be merry with him, Psal. xxiii. 5; Luke xv. 22—24; Song v. 1, ch. vii. 11, 12; John xiv. 23; Rev. iii. 20.

This is that to which the apostle alludeth, when he saith, be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be ye filled with the spirit ; speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts unto the Lord.

For the cups, as to their use in the general, understand them, as of the bowls made mention of before. For assurances are the blooms and flowers of faith ; not always on it, though usually on feasting days, it is so. So the degree of the one is still according to the measure of the other, Ephes. v. 18 ; James v ; Rom. xv. 13.

CHAPTER LII.

Of the Chargers of the Temple.

IN the tabernacle they had but twelve of them, and they were made of silver ; but in the temple they had in all a thousand and thirty. The thirty were made of gold, the rest were made of silver, Numb. vii. 48.

These chargers were not for uses common or profane, but, as I take it, they were those in which the passover, and other meat offerings were drest up, when the people came to eat before God in his holy temple.

The meat, you know I told you, was opposite to milk, and so are these chargers to the bowls and cups and flaggons of the temple.

The meat was of two sorts, roast or boiled. Of that which was roast, was the passover, and of that which was boiled, was the trespass-offerings. Wherefore, concerning the passover, he saith, eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all in water ; but roast with fire, his head, with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof, Exodus xii. 19.

This roast meat was a type of the body of Christ, as suffering for our sins, the which, when it was roast, was, and is, as drest up in chargers, set before the congregations of the saints.

But what were the chargers a type of ?

I also ask, in what charger our gospel passover is now drest up, and set before the people ? Is it not in the evangelists, the prophets, and epistles of the apostles ? They therefore are the chargers and the ordinance of the supper ; in these also is the trespass offerings, with what is fryed in pans, mystically prepared for the children of the highest.

And why might they not be a type of gospel sermons ?

I answer, I think not so fitly ; for alas ! the best of sermons in the world, are but as thin slices cut out of those large dishes. Our ministers are the carvers, good doctrine is the meat, and the chargers in which this meat is found are the holy canonical scriptures, &c. though, as I said, most properly, the New-Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In these is Christ most truly, lively, and amply set before us as crucified, or roasted at the fire of God's law for our sins, that we might live by him through faith, feeding upon him, 2 Cor. iii. 12 ; Gal. iii. 12 ; Acts iii. 18—21, ch. xiii. 4, ch. xxvi. 22 ; 1 Pet. i. 10 ; Acts vii. 42 ; ch. xv. 15 ; ch. xxviii. 23 ; Rom. xvi. 26 ; Rev. x. 7.

There is in these chargers, not only meat, but sauce (if you like it,) to eat the meat withal. For the passover, there is bitter herbs, or sound repentance ; and for others, as the thank offerings, there is holy cheerfulness and prayers to God for grace. All these are set forth before us in the holy scriptures, and presented to us thereby, as in the golden chargers of the temple. He that will scoff at this let him scoff. The chargers were a type of something, and he that can shew a fitter anti-type than is here proposed to consideration, let him do it, and I'll be thankful to him.

Christians ! here is your meat before you ; and this know, the deeper you dip it in the sauce, the better it will relish. But let not unbelief teach you such manners, as to make you leave the best bits behind you. For your liberty is to eat freely of the best, of the fat, and of the sweet.

CHAPTER LIII.

Of the Goings-out of the Temple.

As to the comings into the temple, of them we have spoken already ; namely, of the outer and inner court, as also of the doors of the porch and temple. The coming in was but one strait course, and that a type of Jesus Christ ; but the goings out were many, John x. 9 ; ch. xiv. 6.

Now, as I said, it is insinuated, that the goings out are many, answerable to the many ways which the children of men have invented to apostatize in from God. Christ is the way into, but sin the way out of the temple of God. True, I read not of a description of the goings out of this house, as I read of the comings in ; only when they had thrust Athaliah out thence, she is said, to go out by the way by which the horses came into the king's stables, and there she was slain ; as it were upon the horse dung-hill, 2 Kings xi. 16.

When Uzziah also went out of this house for his transgression, he was cast out of all society, and made to dwell in a kind of a pest house, even to the day of his death, 2 Chron. xxvi. 20, 21.

Thus therefore, though these goings out are not particularly described, the judgments that followed them, that have for their transgressions

been thrust out thence, have been both remarkable and tremendous. For so to die upon a dunghill, or in a pest house, and that for wicked actions, is a shameful and disgraceful thing. And God will still be spreading dung upon the faces of such, no greatness shall prevent it; yea, and will take them away with it, Mal. ii. I will drive them out of my house, says he, I will love them no more, Hos. ix. 15.

But what are we to understand in the gospel days, by goings out of the house of the Lord, for or by sin?

I answer, if it be done voluntarily, then sin leads you out; if it be done by the holy compulsion of the church, then it is done by the judicial judgment of God; that is, they are cut off, and cast out from thence, as a just reward for their transgressions, Lev. xx. 18; ch. xxii. 3; Ezek. xiv. 8; 1 Cor. v. 13.

Well, but whither do they go, they are thus gone out of the temple or church of God?

I answer, not to the dunghill with Athaliah, nor to the pest house with Uzziah; but to the devil, that's the first step, and so to hell without repentance. But if their sin be not unpardonable, they may, by repentance, be recovered, and in mercy tread these courts again. Now the way to this recovery is, to think seriously what they have done, or by what way they went out from the house of God. Hence the prophet is bid to shew to the rebellious house, first the goings out of the house, and then the comings in. But,

I say first, he bids shew them the goings out thereof, Ezek. xliii. 10, 11.

And this of absolute necessity, for the recovering of the sinner. For until he that has sinned himself out of God's house, shall see what danger he has incurred to himself, by this his wicked going out, he will not unfeignedly desire to come in thither again. There is another thing as to this point, to be taken notice of. There is a way by which God also doth impart from his house, and that also is by sin, as the occasion. The sin of man will thrust him out, and the sin of men will drive God out of his own house. Of this you read, Ezek. xi. 22, 23. For thus he saith, I have forsaken mine house, I have left mine heritage, I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hands of her enemies, Jer. xii. 7.

And this also is dreadful. The great sentence of Christ upon the Jews lay much in these words, your house is left unto you desolate; that is, God has left you to bare walls, and to lifeless traditions.

Consider therefore of this going out also. Alas! a church, a true church, is but a poor thing, if God leaves, if God forsakes it. By a true church, I mean one that is congregated, according to outward rule, that has sinned God away, as she had almost quite done, that was of Laodicea, Rev. iii.

He that sins himself out, can find no good in the world; and they that have sinned God out.

can find no good in the church. A church that has sinned God away from it, is a sad lamp indeed. You therefore that are in God's church, take heed of sinning yourselves out thence; also take heed, that while you keep in, you sin not God away, or thenceforth no good is there. Yea, woe unto them when I depart from them, saith God, Hos. ix. 12.

CHAPTER LIV.

Of the Singers belonging to the Temple.

HAVING thus far passed through the temple, I now come to the singers there; the singers were many, but all of the church, either Jews, or proselytes. Nor was there any, as I know of, under the Old Testament worship, admitting to sing the songs of the church, and to celebrate that part of worship with the saints, but they, who at least, in appearance were so. The song of Moses, of Deborah, and of those that danced before David, with others that you read of, they were all performed either by Jews by nature, or by such as were proselyted to their religion, Exod. xv. 1; Judges v. 1, 2; 1 Sam. xviii. 6. And such worship then was occasioned by God's appearance for them, against the power of the Gentiles, their enemies.

But we are confined to the songs of the tem-

ple, a more distinct type of ours in the church under the gospel.

1. The singers then were many, but the chief of them, in the days of David, were David himself, Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman, and their sons.

2. In David's time the chief of these singers were two hundred threescore and eight, 1 Chron. xxv.

These singers of old were to sing their songs over the burnt offering, which were types of the sacrificed body of Christ; a memorial of which offering we have at the Lord's table, the consummation of which Christ and his disciples celebrated with a hymn, Matt. xxvi. 30.

And as of old, they were the church that did sing in the temple, according to institution, to God; so also they are by God's appointment to be sung by the church in the new. Hence,

1. They are said to be the redeemed that sing.

2. The songs that they sing, are said to be the songs of their redemption, Rev. v. 9, 10.

3. They were, and are songs, that no man can learn, but they.

But let us run a little in the parallel.

1. They were of old appointed to sing that were cunning and skilful in songs. And answerable to that, it is said, that no man could learn our New-Testament songs, but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were

redeemed from the earth, 1 Chron. xv. 22 ; Rev. xiv. 3.

2. These songs were sung with harps, psalteries, cymbals, and trumpets, a type of our singing with spiritual joy from grace in our hearts, 1 Chron. xxv. 6 ; 2 Chron. xxix 26—28 ; Col. iii. 16.

3. The singers of old were to be clothed in fine linen, which fine linen was a type of innocency, and an upright conversation. Hence the singers under the New-Testament, are said to be virgins, such in whose mouth was no guile, and that were without fault before the throne of God, 1 Chron. xv. 27 ; Rev. xiv. 1—5 ; chap. vii. 9—15 ; Psal. xxxiii. 1.

4. The songs sung in the temple were new, or such as were compiled after the manner of repeated mercies that the church of God had received, or were to receive ; and answerable to this, is the church to sing now, new songs, with new hearts, for new mercies, Psal. xxxiii. 3 ; ch. xcvi ; ch. cxliv. 9 ; Rev. xiv. 3.

New songs, I say, are grounded on new matter, new occasions, new mercies, new deliverances, new discoveries of God to the soul, or for new frames of heart ; and are such as are most taking, most pleasing, and most refreshing to the soul.

5. These songs of old to distinguish them from heathenish ones, were called God's songs, the Lord's songs, because taught by him, and learned of him and enjoined to them, to be sung

to his praise. Hence David said, God hath put a new song into my mouth, even praise to our God, Psal. xl. 3.

6. These songs also were called the songs of Zion, and the songs of the temple, Psalm cxxxvii. 3 ; Amos viii. 3.

And they are so called, as they were theirs to sing there ; I say, of them of Zion, and the worshippers in the temple ; I say, to sing in the church, by the church, to him who is the God of the church, for the mercies, benefits, and blessings, which she has received from him. Zion songs, temple songs, must be sung by Zion's sons, and temple worshippers. The redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs, and everlasting joy upon their heads ; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall fly away. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height, or upon the mountain of Zion ; and shall flow together thither, to the goodness of the Lord. Break forth into singing, ye mountains, and let the inhabitants of the rock sing, Isa. xlii. 11 ; ch. xlv. 23.

To sing to God, is the highest worship we are capable to perform in heaven ; and it is much if sinners on earth, without grace should be capable of performing it, according to its institution, acceptably. I pray God it be done by all those that now-a-days get into churches, in spirit, and with understanding.

CHAPTER LV.

Of the Union of the Holy and Most Holy Temple.

THAT commonly called the temple of God at Jerusalem, considered as standing of two parts, was called the outward and inward temple, or the holy and most holy place. They were builded upon one and the same foundation, neither could one go into the holiest, but as through the holy place, 1 Kings iii. 1, ch. vi. 1 ; 2 Chron. v. 1, ch. vii. 2.

The first house, namely, that which we have been speaking of, was a type of the church-militant ; and the place most holy, a type of the church-triumphant ; I say, of the church-triumphant as it is now.

So then, the house standing of these two parts, was a shadow of the church both in heaven and on earth. And for that they are joined together by one and the same foundation, it was to shew that they above, and we below, are yet one and the self-same house of God. Hence they and we together, are called, the whole family in heaven and earth, Ephes. iii. 14, 15.

And hence it is said again, That we who believe on earth, are to come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an invisible company of angels. To the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven, and to the

spirits of just men made perfect, and to God the judge of all, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel, Heb. xii. 22—24.

The difference then betwixt us and them, is not that we are really two but one body in Christ in divers places. True, we are below stairs, and they above; they in their holy-day, and we in our working-day clothes; they in harbor, but we in the storm; they at rest, and we in the wilderness; they singing, as crowned with joy; we crying, as crowned with thorns. But I say, we are all of one house, one family, and are all children of one father.

This therefore we must not forget, lest we debar ourselves of much of that, which otherwise, while here, we have a right unto. Let us therefore, I say, remember, that the temple of God is but one, though divided, as one may say, into kitchen and hall, above-stairs and below, or holy and most holy place. For it stands upon the same foundation, and is called but one, the temple of God, which is builded upon the Lord our Saviour.

I told you before, that none of old could go into the most holy, but by the holy place, even by the veil that made the partition between, Exod. xxvi. 33; Lev. xvi. 2, 12, 15; Heb. ix. 7, 8, ch. x. 16.

Wherefore, they are deceived that think to go into the holiest which is in heaven, when

they die ; who yet abandon and hate the holy place, while they live.

Nay, sirs, the way into the holiest is through the holy place ; the way into heaven, is through the church on earth ; for that Christ is there by his word, to be received by faith, before he can, by us in person, be received in the beatifical vision. The church on earth, is as the house of the women spoken of in the book of Esther, where we must be dieted, perfumed, and made fit to go into the Bridegroom's chamber, or as Paul says, made to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, Esther ii ; Col. i. 12.

CHAPTER LVI.

Of the Holiest or Inner Temple.

THE most holy place was, as I said, a figure of heaven itself ; consequently, a type of that where the most special presence of God is ; and where his face is most clearly seen, and the gladness of his countenance most enjoyed, Heb. ix. 23, 24 ; Exod. xxv. 22 ; Numb. vii. 89 :

The most holy place was dark, it had no windows in it, though there were such round the chambers ; the most special presence of God too, on Mount Sinai, was in the thick darkness there, 1 Kings viii. 12 ; 2 Chron. vi. 1 ; Exod. xix. 9, ch. xx. 21.

1. This holiest therefore being thus made was

to shew that God, as in heaven, to us on earth, is altogether invisible, and not to be reached otherwise than by faith. For I say, in that this house had no windows, nothing herein could be seen by the highest light of this world. Things there were only seen by the light of the fire of the altar, which was a type of the shinings of the Holy Ghost, 1 Cor. ii. And hence it is said notwithstanding this darkness, he dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto; none but the high priest, Christ, 1 Tim. vi. 16; 1 Pet. iii. 21, 22.

2. The holiest therefore was thus built, to shew how different our state in heaven will be from this our state on earth. We walk here, by one light, by the light of the written word, for that is now a light to our feet, and lantern to our path. But that place, where there will be no written word, nor ordinances, as here, will yet to us shine more light and clear, than if all the lights that are in the world were put together to light one man; for God is light, and in him is no darkness at all, 1 John i. 5. And in his light, and in the light of the Lamb immediately, we shall live, and walk, and rejoice, all the days of eternity.

3. This also was ordained thus, to shew that we, while in the first temple, should live by faith, as to what there was, or as to what was done in the second. Hence it is said as to that we walk by faith, not by sight, 2 Cor. v. 7.

The things that are there we are told of, even

of the ark of the testimony and mercy-seat, and the cherubims of glory, and the presence of Christ, and of God ; we are, I say, told of them by the word, and are taken therewith, and hope to go to them hereafter : but otherwise we see them not. Therefore we are said to look, not at the things that are seen, but at the things that are not seen ; for the things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are not seen are eternal, 2 Cor. iv. 18.

4. The people of old were not to look into the holiest, lest they died, Numb. xvii. 13, save only their high-priest, he might go into it ; to shew that we, while here, must have a care of vain speculations ; for there is nothing to be seen by us while here, in heaven, otherwise than by faith in God's eternal testament. True, we may now come to the holiest, even as nigh as the first temple will admit us to come ; but it must be by blood and faith, not by vain imagination, sense, or carnal reason.

5. This holiest of all was four square every way, both as to height, length, and breadth. To be thus, is a note of perfection, as I have shewed elsewhere ; wherefore it was on purpose thus built to shew us that all fulness of blessedness is there, both as to the nature, degree, and duration. So when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away, 1 Cor. xiii. 8—10 ; Heb. x. 19—22.

CHAPTER LVII.

Of the Veil of the Temple.

THE veil of the temple was a hanging, made of blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen; and there were cherubims wrought thereon, Exod. xxvi. 31, 32.

1. This veil was one partition betwixt the holy place. And I take it, it was to keep from the sight of the worshippers, the things most holy, when the high priest went in thither to accomplish the service of God, Exod. xxvi. 33; 2 Chron. iii. 14; Heb. ix. 8.

2. The veil was a type of two things :

1. Of these visible heavens, through which Christ passed, when he went to make intercession for us. And as by the veil, the priest went out of the sight of the people, when he went into the holiest of all, so Jesus Christ, when he ascended, was, by the heavens, that great and stretched-out curtain, received out of the sight of his people here also; by the same curtain, since it is become as a tent for him to dwell in, he is still received, and still kept out of our sight; For now we see him not, nor shall, until these heavens be rolled together as a scroll, and pass away like a thing rolled together, Isa. xl. 22; Acts i. 9, 10, 11, ch. iii. 19—21; 1 Pet. i. 8.

2. This is the veil, through which the apostle saith, Jesus as a forerunner for us, entered into

the presence of God. For by the veil here also must be meant the heavens or out-spread firmament thereof. As both Mark and Peter say, he is gone into heaven, and is on the right-hand of God, Mark xvi. 19 ; 1 Pet. iii. 22.

3. The veil of the temple was made of blue, the very colour of the heavens ; of purple, and crimson, and scarlet also, which are the colours of many of the clouds, because of the reflections of the sun. But again,

4. The veil was also a type of the body of Christ ; for as the veil of the temple, when whole, kept the view of the things of the holiest from us, but when rent, gave place to a man to look into them, even so the body of Christ while whole, kept that the things of the holiest from that view, we, since he was pierced, have of them : Hence we are said to enter into the holiest, by faith, through the veil ; that is to say, his flesh, Heb. x. 19—22.

But yet, I say, all is by faith : And indeed, the renting of the veil that day that Christ was crucified, did loudly preach this to us. For no sooner was the body of Christ pierced, but the veil of the temple rent in twain from the top to the bottom ; and so a way was made for a clearer sight of what was there beyond it, both in the type and anti-type, Matt. xxvii. 50 to 53 ; Heb. x. 19, 20 ;

Thus you see that the veil of the temple was a type of these visible heavens, and also of the body of Christ ; of the first, because he passed

through it unto the Father ; of the second, because we by it have boldness to come to the Father.

I read also of two other veils ; as of that spread over the face of Moses, to the end, the children of Israel should not steadfastly behold : and of the first veil of the tabernacle ; but of these I shall not in this place speak.

Upon the veil of the temple there was also the figures of cherubims wrought, that is, of angels, to shew, that as the angels are with us here, and wait upon us all the days of our pilgrimage in this world, so when we die, they stand ready, even at the veil, at the door of these heavens, to come, when bid, to fetch us, and carry us away into Abraham's bosom, Luke xvi. 22.

The veil then, thus understood, teaches us, first, where Jesus is, namely, not here, but gone into heaven, from whence we should wait for him. It also teaches us, that if we would even now discern the glories that are in the holiest of all, we must look through Jesus to them, even through the veil, that is to say, his flesh. Yea, it teaches us, that we may by faith, through him, attain to a kind of presence, at least of the beauty and sweetness of them.

CHAPTER LVIII.

Of the Doors of the Inner Temple.

BESIDES the veil, there was a door of the inner-temple, and that door was made of olive-

tree : And for the entering in of the oracle, he made doors of olive-tree : The two doors also of olive-tree ; and he carved upon them cherubims, and palm-trees, and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm-trees, 1 Kings vi. 31.

2. These doors were a type of the gate of heaven, even of that which lets into the eternal mansion-house that is beyond that veil. I told you before, that the veil was a type of the visible heavens, which God has spread out as a curtain, and through which Christ went, when he ascended to the right-hand of the Father.

3. Now beyond this veil, as I said, I find a door, a gate opening with two leaves, as afore we found at the door of the outward temple. These are they which the Psalmist calls to, when when he saith, lift up your heads, O ye gates, even lift them up, ye everlasting doors, and the king of glory shall come in, Psalm xxiv. 7.

4. The doors of the temple were made of fir, but these, as you see, were made of olives, to shew us by that fat tree, that rich type, with what glory we shall meet, who shall be counted worthy to enter at these gates. The olive-tree has its name from oil and fatness of its nature, and the doors that let into the holiest were made of this olive-tree.

5. Cherubims were also carved upon these doors, to shew, that as the angels meet us at the temple door, and also stand ready at the

veil, so even at the gate of the mansion-house, they will also be ready to give us a welcome thither, and to attend us into the presence-chamber.

6. Palm-trees also, as they were carved upon the temple-doors, so we also find them here before the oracle, upon the doors that let in thither ; to shew, that as Christ gave us the victory at our first entering into faith, so he will finish that victory, by giving to us eternal salvation. Thus is he the author and finisher of our faith. For as sure as at first we received the palm branch by faith, so surely shall we wear it in our hands, as a token of his faithfulness in the heaven of heavens, for ever, Rev. vii. 9.

7. Open flowers are also carved here, to shew that Christ who is the door to glory, as well as the door to grace, will be precious to us at our entering in thither, as well as at the first step we took thitherward in a sinful miserable world. Christ will never lose his sweet scent in the nostrils of his church. He is most sweet now, will be so at death, and sweetest of all, when by him we shall enter into that mansion-house prepared for us in heaven.

8. The palm-trees and open flowers may also be a type of the precious ones of God, who shall be counted worthy of his kingdom. The one, of the uprightness of their hearts ; the other, of the good Saviour of their lives. The upright shall dwell in thy presence ; and to him that ordereth his conversation aright, I will shew the salvation of God, Psalm l. 23 ; ch. cxl. 13.

9. Thus sweet in earth, sweet in heaven ; and he that yields the fruit of the gospel here shall find it for himself, and his eternal comfort, at the gates of glory.

10. All these were overlaid with gold, as you may say, and so they were at the door of the first house. True; but observe, here we have an addition. Here is gold upon gold, gold laid on them, and then gold spread upon that. He overlaid them with gold, and then spread gold upon them. The Lord gives grace and glory, Psalm lxxxiv. 11, gold and gold. Gold spread upon gold. Grace is gold in the leaf, and glory is gold in plates. Grace is thin gold, glory is gold that is thick. Here is gold laid on, and gold spread upon that ; and that both upon the palm-trees, and the cherubims. Gold upon the palm-trees, that's upon the saints ; gold upon the cherubims, that's upon the angels ; for I doubt not, but that the angels themselves shall receive additional glory for the service which they have served Christ and his church on earth.

11. The angels are God's harvest men, and doubtless he will give them good wages, even glory upon their glory then, Matt. xiii. 38, 39 ; ch. xxiv. 31 ; John iv. 36.

12. You know harvest men used to be paid well for gathering in the corn ; and I doubt not but so shall these, when the great in-gathering is over. But what an entrance into life is here ! Here is gold upon gold at the door, at our first step into the kingdom.

CHAPTER LIX.

Of the Golden Nails of the Inner Temple.

I shall not concern myself with all the nails of the temple, as of those made of iron, &c. 1 Chron. xxii. 3, but only with the golden ones, of which you read, 2 Chron. iii. 4, where he saith, and the weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold. These nails as I conceive, were all fastened to the place most holy, and of form most apt to that of which they were a figure.

1. Some of them represent Christ Jesus our Lord as fixed in his mediatory office in the heavens; wherefore, in one place, when the Holy Ghost speaks of Christ, as he sprang from Judah to be a mediator, saith, out of him came the corner, (the corner stone) out of him the nails, Zech. x. 4.

Now, since he is here compared to a nail, a golden nail, it is to shew, that as a nail, by driving, is fixed in its place, so Christ, by God's oath is made an everlasting priest, Heb. vii. 25. Therefore, as he saith again, the nail, the Aaronical priesthood, that was fastened in a sure place, should be removed, be cut down, and fall, so he who has the key of David, which is Christ, Rev. iii. 7, shall, by God, as a nail, be fastened in a sure place, and abide. Therefore he says again, and he shall be for a glorious throne, or

mercy-seat to his father's house ; and moreover, that they shall hang on him (as on a nail) all the glory of his father's house, the offspring, and the issue ; all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to the vessels of flaggons. According to that which is written, and they sung a new song to the Lamb that was slain, saying thou art worthy, &c. Isa. xxii. 20—25 ; Rev. v. 9—12.

And therefore it is again, that Christ, under the similitude of a nail, is accounted by saints indeed, their great pledge or hope, as he is in heaven, of their certain coming thither : hence they said of old, God has given us a nail in his holy place : a nail, says the line, pin, a constant and sure abode, says the margin, Ezra ix. 8. Now this nail in his holy place, as was shewed before, is Christ ; Christ, as possessor of heaven, and as abiding, and ever living therein for us.

Hence he is called, as there, our head, our life, and our salvation ; and also, we are said there to be set down together in him, Col. iii. 3 ; Eph. ii. 5, 6.

2. Some of these nails were types of the holy words of God, which forever are settled in heaven. Types, I say, of their yea, and amen. Hence Solomon in another place, compares the words of the wise God, to goads and nails fastened by the masters of the assemblies, which are given from one shepherd, Eccles. xii. 11.

They are called goads, because, as such prick

the oxen on in their drawing, so God's words prick christians on their holy duties. They are called nails, to shew, that as nails, when fastened well in a sure place, are not easily removed; so God's words by his will, stand firm forever. The masters of the assemblies, are, first, the apostles: the one shepherd is Jesus Christ. Hence the Gospel of Christ is said to be everlasting, to abide forever, and to be more stedfast than heaven and earth, Isa. xl. 6—8; 1 Pet. ii. 6, 25; Heb. xvii. 20; Rev. xiv. 6; Matt. xxiv. 35.

The Lord Jesus then, and his holy words, are the golden nails of the temple; and the fixing of these nails in the temple, was to shew, that Christ is the same to-day, yesterday, and forever; and that his words abide, and remain the same forever and ever. He then that hath Christ, has a nail in the holiest: he that hath a promise of salvation, hath also a nail in heaven, a golden nail in heaven.

CHAPTER LX.

Of the Floor and Walls of the Inner Temple.

THE floor of the oracle was overlaid with cedar, and so also was the walls of this house. He built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar. He even built for it within, for the oracles, for the most holy place, 1 Kings xvi.

2. In that he doth tell us with what it was ceiled, and doth also thus repeat, saying, for the oracle, for it within, even for the most holy place ; it is because he would have it noted, that this only is the place that thus was done.

3. Twenty cubits, that was the length, and breadth, and height of the house : so that by his thus saying, he teacheth, that thus it was builded round about.

4. The cedar is, if I mistake not, the highest of the trees, Ezek. xxxi. 3—8.

Now, in that it is said, the house, the oracle, was ceiled round about therewith, it may be to shew, that in heaven, and no where else, is the height of all perfections.

Perfection is in the church on earth, but not such as is in heaven.

1. There is natural perfection, and so a penny is as natural silver as is a shilling.

2. There is a comparative perfection, and so one thing may be perfect and imperfect at the same time ; as a half-crown is more than a shilling, yet less than a crown.

3. There is also that which we call the utmost perfection, and that is it which cannot be added to, or taken from him ; and so God only is perfect.

Now heavenly glory is that which goes beyond all perfection on the earth, as the cedar goes beyond all trees for height. Hence God, when he speaks of his own excellency, sets it forth by his height. The High God, the Most

High, and the High and Lofty One. And the Highest, Psal. xcvi. 9 ; ch. cxxxviii. 6 ; Gen. xiv. 19—21 ; Dan. iii. 21, ch. v. 18 ; Psalms xviii. 13 ; ch. lxxxv. 7 ; Luke i. 32 ; ch. vi. 35 ; Psal. ix. 2 ; ch. lvi. 2 ; ch. xcii. 1 ; Isa. xiv. 14.

These terms also are ascribed to this house, for that it was the place where utmost perfection dwell.

I take, therefore, the cedar in this place to be a note of perfection, even the cedar with which this house was ceiled.

For since it is the wisdom of God to speak to us, oft-times by trees, gold, silver, stones, beasts, fowls, fishes, spiders, ants, frogs, flies, lice, dust, &c. and here by wood ; how should we by them understand his voice, if we count there is no meaning in them ?

And the cedar of the house within was carved with knops and flowers, all was cedar : there was no stone seen, 1 Kings ix. 18.

Knops and flowers, were they with which the golden candlesticks was adorned, as you read, Exod. xxxvii. 17.

The candlestick was a type of the church, and the knops and flowers, a type of her ornaments. But what ! must heaven be hanged round about with the ornaments of saints, with the fruits of their graces ? Well, it is certain, that something more than ordinary must be done with them, since they are admitted to follow them into the holy place, Rev. xiv. 13, and since

it is said, they shall have a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory bestowed on them in the heavens, 2 Cor. iv. 16, 17.

All was cedar, there was no stone seen. Take stone in the type for that which was really so, and in the anti-type, for that which is so mystically, and then it may import to us, that in heaven the anti-type of this holiest, there shall never be any thing of hardness of heart in them that possess it for ever : all imperfection ariseth from the badness of the heart, but there will be no bad hearts in glory ; no shortness in knowledge, no crossness of disposition, no workings of lusts or corruptions will be there, no, not throughout the whole heavens, Here, alas ! they are seen, and that in the best of saints, because here our light is mist with darkness, but there will be no night there, nor any stone seen.

And the floor of the house was overlaid with gold, 1 Kings vi. 30. This is like that which we read of, the New Jerusalem that is to come from God out of heaven, says the text, the streets of the city were pure gold ; and like that, of which you read in Exodus, they saw under the feet of the God of Israel, as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in its clearness, Rev. xxi. 21 ; Exod. xxiv. 10.

All the visions were rich, but this the richest, that the floor of the house should be covered, or overlaid with gold. The floor and streets are walking places, and how rich will our steps

be then? Alas! here we sometimes step into the mire, and then again stumble upon blocks and stones. Here we sometimes fall into holes, and have our heel oft caught in a snare; but there will be none of these; gold, gold all will be gold and golden perfections, when we come into the holy place. Job at best took but his steps in butter, but we then shall take all our steps in the gold of the sanctuary.

CHAPTER LXI.

Of the Ark of the Covenant, which was placed in the Inner-Temple

IN the word I read of three arks, to wit, Noah's ark, that in which Moses was hid, and the ark of the covenant of God, Gen. vi. 14; Exod. ii. 3, 5. But it is the ark of the covenant of which I shall now speak.

The ark was made of shittim wood, two cubits and an half was the length thereof, and a cubit and an half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and an half the height thereof. It was overlaid with pure gold within and without, and a crown of gold was made for it round about, Exod. xxv. 10, 11.

1. This ark was called the ark of the covenant, as the first that you read of was called Noah's, because, as he in that was kept from being

drowned, so the tables of the covenant was kept in this from breaking.

2. This ark, in this, was a type of Christ. For that in him only, and not in the hand of Moses, these tables were kept whole : Moses brake them, the ark keeps them.

3. Not only that wrote on two tables of stone, but that also called the ceremonial, was put into the ark to be kept. The two tables were put into the midst of the ark, to answer this, thy law is within my heart to do it. But the ceremonial was put into the side of the ark, to shew, that out of the side of Christ must come that which must answer that. For out thence came blood and water ; blood, to answer the blood of ceremonies, and water, to answer the purifying and rinsings of that.

The ceremonies therefore were lodged in the side of the ark, to shew, that they should be answered out of the side of Jesus Christ, Exod. xxv. 16, 17 ; Deut. x. 5 ; ch. xxxi. 26 ; Psal. xl. 8 ; John xix. 34 ; Heb. x. 7.

4. The ark had the name of God upon it ; yea, it was called the strength of God, and his glory, though made of wood. And Christ is God, both in name and nature, though made flesh ; yea, more, made to be sin for us, 2 Sam. vi. 2 ; 2 Chron. vi. 14 ; ch. xiii. 6 ; John i. 14 ; Rom. ix. 5 ; 2 Cor. v. 21.

5. The ark was carried upon men's shoulders, this way and that, to shew how Christ should be carried and preached by his apostles

and ministers, into all parts of the world, *Exod.* xxv. 14 ; *1 Chron.* xv. 15 ; *Matt.* xxviii. 19, 20 ; *Luke* xxiv. 46, 47.

6. The ark had those testimonies of God's presence accompanying it, as had no other ceremony of the law ; and Christ had those signs and tokens of his presence with him as never had man in law or gospel. This is so apparent, it needs no proof. And now for a few comparisons more.

1. It was at that, that God answered the people, when they were wont to come to inquire of him : And in these last days, God has spoken to us by his Son, *1 Chron.* xiii. 3 ; *1 Sam.* xiv. 18 ; *Heb.* i. 2 ; *John* xvi. 23, 24.

2. At the presence of the ark the waters of Jordan stood still, till Israel, the ransomed of the Lord, passed over from the wilderness to Canaan, and it is by the power and presence of Christ, that we pass over death, Jordan's anti-type, from the wilderness of this world to heaven, *Josh.* iii. 15—17 ; *John* xi. 25 ; *Rom.* viii. 37—39 ; *1 Cor.* xv. 54—57.

3. Before the ark the walls of Jericho fell down, and at the presence of Christ shall all high towers and strong holds, and hiding places for sinners be razed, and dissolved at his coming, *Isa.* vi. 20, ch. xxx. 25, ch. ii. 1, 2, 13—16 ; *2 Pet.* iii. 10 ; *Rev.* xx. 11—13.

4. Before the ark, Dagon fell, that idol of the Philistines ; and before Christ Jesus, devils fell, those gods of all those idols ; and he must reign

till all his enemies be put under his feet, and until they be made his footstool, 1 Sam. v. 1—4 ; Mark v. 12 ; 1 Cor. xv. 25 ; Heb. x. 13.

5. The Philistines were also plagued for meddling with the ark, while they abode uncircumcised, and the wicked will one day be most severely plagued for their meddling with Christ with their uncircumcised hearts, 1 Sam. v. 6—12 ; Psal. l. 16 ; Matt. xxiv. 51 ; ch. xxv. 11, 12 ; Luke xiii. 25—28.

6. God's blessing was upon those that entertained the ark as they should ; and much more is, and will his blessing be upon those that so embrace and entertain his Christ, and profess his name sincerely, 2 Sam. vi. 11 ; Acts iii. 26 ; Gal. iii. 13, 14 ; Matt. xix. 27—29 ; Luke xxii. 28, 29.

7. When Uzza put forth his hand to stay the ark, when the oxen shook it, as despairing of God's protecting it, without a human help, he died before the Lord : even so will all those do (without repentance) who use unlawful means to promote Christ's religion, and to support it in the world, 1 Chron. xiii. 9, 10 ; Matt. xxvi. 52 ; Rev. xiii. 10.

8. The ark, though thus dignified, was of itself but low, but a cubit and an half high : Also Christ, though he was the glory of heaven and of God, yet made himself of no reputation, and was found in the likeness of a man, Exod. xxv. 11, 12 ; Phil. ii. 6—10.

9. The ark had a crown of gold round about

it; to shew how Christ is crowned by his saints by faith, and shall be crowned by them in glory, for all the good he hath done for them: as also how all crowns shall one day stoop to him, and be set upon his head. This is shewed in the type, Zech. vi. 11, 14. And in the anti-type, Rev. iv. 10, ch. xix. 12.

10. The ark was overlaid with gold within and without: To shew, that Christ was perfect in inward grace, and outward life; in spirit and in righteousness, John i. 12—14; 1 Pet. ii. 22.

11. The ark was placed under the mercy-seat, to shew, that Jesus Christ, as redeemer, brings and bears, as it were upon his shoulders, the mercy of God to us, even in the body of his flesh, through death, Exod. xxv. 21; Eph. iv. 23, ch. v. 1, 2.

12. When the ark was removed far from the people, the godly went mourning after it; and when Christ is hid, or taken from us, then we mourn in those days, 2 Sam. vii. 2; Mark ii. 19, 20; Luke v. 34, 35; John xvi. 20—22.

13. All Israel had the ark again, after their mourning time was over: And Christ, after his people have sorrowed for him a while, will see them again, and their hearts shall rejoice, John xvi. 1, 2, 3, 20, 21, 22.

By all these things and many more, that might be mentioned, it is most evident, that the ark of the testimony was a type of Jesus Christ: and take notice a little of that which follows; name-

ly, that the ark at last arrived to the place most holy, Heb. ix. 3, 4.

That is, after its wanderings ; for the ark was made first to wander like a non-inhabitant, from place to place ; now hither, and then thither ; now in the hands of enemies, and then abused by friends ; yea, it was caused to rove from place to place, as that of which the world was weary. I need instance to you for proof, none other place than the 5th, 6th, and 7th chapters of the first book of Samuel ; and answerable to this, was our dear Lord Jesus posted backwards and forwards, hither and thither, by the force of the rage of his enemies.

1. He was haunted into Egypt as soon as he was born, Matt. ii.

2. Then he was driven to live in Galilee, the space of many years.

3. And when he shewed himself to Israel, they drove him sometimes into the wilderness, sometimes into the desert, sometimes into the sea, and sometimes into the mountains ; and still in every of these places he was either haunted or hunted by new enemies.

And last of all, the Pharisees plot for his life, Judas sells him, the priests buy him, Peter denies him, his enemies mock, scourge, buffet, and much abuse him. In fine, they get him condemned, and crucified, and buried ; but at last, God commanded, and took him to his place, even within the veil, and sets him to bear up the mercy seat, where he is to this very day, being our

ark to save us, as Noah's did him, as Moses' did him ; yea, better, as none but his doth save his own.

CHAPTER LXII.

Of the placing of the Ark in the Holiest, or Inner Temple.

THE ark, as we have said, as the text declares, when carried to its rest, was placed in the inner-temple, or the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims, and the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims, Exod. xxvi. 33 ; ch. xxxix 35 ; 1 Kings viii. 3 ; 2 Chron. v. 7.

2. Before this, as was said before, the ark was carried from place to place, and caused to dwell in a tent under curtains, as all our Fathers did. To shew, that Christ, as we, was made for a time to wander in the world, in order to his being possesser of glory, 2 Sam. vii. 1, 2, 6 ; Heb. xi. 8, 9 ; John i. 10 ; ch. xvi. 28 ; ch. iii. 13.

3. But now, when the ark was brought into the holiest it is said to be brought into its place. This world then was not Christ's place ; he was not from beneath, he came from his Father's house ; wherefore while here, he was not at his place, nor could, until he ascended up where he

was before, John viii. 33, ch. xvi. 28, ch. vi. 62, ch. iii. 13.

4. Christ's proper place therefore is the holiest. His proper place, as God, as priest, as prophet, as king, and as the advocate of his people. Here, with us, he has no more to do in person, as mediator. If he were on earth, he should not be a priest, &c. His place and work is now above with his Father, and before the angels, Acts v. 31 ; 1 Pet. iii. 22 ; Heb. iv. 14, ch. viii. 4, ch. ix. 24 ; 1 John ii. 1, 2 ; Rev. i. 1, 2.

5. It is said, the ark was brought to the oracle of the house. Solomon was not content to say, it was brought into the holiest ; but he saith his place was the oracle, the holy oracle ; that is, the place of hearing. For he, when he ascended, had somewhat to say to God on the behalf of his people, to the oracle, that is, to the place of revealing ; for he also was there to receive, and from thence to reveal to his church on earth, something that could not be made manifest, but from this holy oracle. There therefore, he is with the two tables of testimony in his heart, as perfectly kept ; he also is there with the whole fulfilling of the ceremonial law in his side, shewing and pleading the perfection of his righteousness, and the merit of his blood with his Father ; and to receive and send us word, who believe in him, how well pleased the Father is, with what he has done in our behalf.

6. Into the most holy place. By these words

is shewed, whither also the ark went, when it went to take up its rest. And in that this ark was a type of Christ in this, it is to shew or further manifest, that what Christ doth now in heaven, he doth it before his Father's face. Yea, it intimates that Christ even there makes his appeals to God, concerning the worth of what he did on earth, to God, the judge of all ; I say, whether he ought not for his sufferings sake, to have granted to him his whole desire, as priest and advocate for his people.

Wilt thou, said Festus to Paul, go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me ? Acts xxv. 9. Why, this our blessed Jesus was willing, when here, to go up to Jerusalem to be judged ; and being mis-judged of there, he made his appeal to God, and is now gone thither, even into the holy place, even to him that is judge of all, for his verdict upon his doings ; and whether the souls for whom he became undertaker, to bring them to glory, have not by him a right to the kingdom of heaven.

7. Under the wings of the cherubims. This doth further confirm our words ; for having appealed from earth to heaven as the ark was set under the wings of the cherubims, so he in his interceding with God, and pleading his merits for us, doth it in the presence and hearing of all the angels of heaven.

And thus much of the ark of the covenant, and of its anti type : We come next to speak of the mercy seat.

CHAPTER LXIII.

Of the Mercy Seat, and how it was placed in the Holy Temple.

THE mercy seat was made in the wilderness, but brought up by Solomon, after the temple was builded, with the rest of the holy things, 2 Chr. v. 2—9.

The mercy seat, as I have shewed of the ark, was but low. Two cubits and an half was the length, and an half the breadth thereof. But the height thereof was without measure.

1. The length and breadth of the mercy seat is the same with that of the ark; perhaps to shew us, that the length and breadth of the mercy of God to his elect, is the same with the length and breadth of the merits of Christ, Exod. xxv. 10, 17.

Therefore we are said to be justified in him, blessed in him, even according to the purpose which God purposed in him.

2. But in that the mercy seat is without measure, as to the height, it is to shew, that, would God extend it, it is able to reach even them that fall from heaven, and to save all that ever lived on earth, even all that are now in hell. For there is not only breadth enough for them that shall be saved, but bread enough and to spare, Luke xv. 17.

And thou shalt, says God, put the mercy seat above upon the ark. Thus he said to Moses ; and this was the place which David assigned for it, Exod. xxv. 21 ; 1 Chron. xxviii. 11.

Now its being by God's ordinance placed thus, doth teach us many things.

1. That mercy's foundation to us is Christ. The mercy seat was set upon the ark of the testimony, and there is rested to us-ward. Justice would not, could not have suffered us to have had any benefit by mercy, had it not found an ark, a Christ to rest upon. Deliver him, saith God, from going down into the pit ; I have found a ransom, Job xxxiii. 24.

2. In that it was placed above, it doth shew also, that Christ was of mercy's ordaining a fruit of mercy. Mercy is above, is the ordainer ; God is love, and sent of love his Son to be the Saviour and propitiation for our sins, John iii. 16.

3. In that the mercy seat and ark was thus joined together, it also shews, that without Christ, mercy doth not act. Hence, when the priest came of old to God for mercy, he did use to come into the holy place with blood ; yea, and did use to sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before it seven times. Take away the ark, and the mercy seat will fall, or come greatly down at least. So take away Christ, and the flood gate of mercy is let down, and the current of mercy stopt. This is true ; for so soon as

Christ shall leave off to mediate, will come the eternal judgment.

4. Again, in that the mercy seat was set above upon the ark, it teacheth us to know, that mercy can look down from heaven, though the law stands by, and looks on ; but then it must be in Christ, as kept there, and fulfilled by him for us. The law out of Christ is terrible as a lion ; the law in him is meek as a lamb ; the reason is, for that it finds in him enough to answer for all their faults, that come to God for mercy by him. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness ; and if that be true, the law for that can look no further, whoever comes to God by him. The law did use to sentence terribly, until it was put into the ark to be kept : but after it was said, it is there to be kept, we read not of it as before, 1 Kings viii. 9 ; 2 Chron. v. 10 ; Rom. x. 4.

5. Let them that come to God for mercy, be sure to come to him by the ark, Christ. For grace, as it descends to us from above the mercy seat, so that mercy seat doth rest upon the ark ; wherefore sinner, come thou for mercy that way : for thee, if thou meetest with the law, it can do thee no harm ; nor can mercy, shouldest thou elsewhere meet it, do the good.

Come therefore, and come boldly to the throne of grace, this mercy-seat, thus borne up by the ark, and obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need, Heb. iv. 16.

Wherefore the thus placing of things in the

holiest, is admirable to behold in the word of God. For that indeed is the glass, by and through which we must behold this glory of the Lord. Here we see the reason of things: Here we see how a just God can have to do, and that in a way of mercy, with one that has sinned against him; it is because the law has been kept by the Lord Jesus Christ. For as you see, the mercy-seat stands upon the ark of the covenant, and there God acts in a way of grace towards us, Exod. xxv. 17 to 22.

CHAPTER LXIV

Of the Living Waters of the Inner Temple.

ALTHOUGH in the holy relation of the building of the temple, no mention is made of these waters, but only of the mount on which, and the materials with which, the king did build it; yet it seems to me, that in that mount, and there too, where the temple was built, was a spring of living water. This seems more than probable by Ezek. xlvii. 1, where he saith, He brought me to the door of the house and behold waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward; for the fore-front of the house stood towards the east, and the waters came down from under, from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

So again, Joel iii. 18 : And a fountain shall come forth of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim. Nor was the spring, where ever was the first appearance of these holy waters, but in the sanctuary, which is the holiest of all, Ezek. xlvii. 12, where the mercy-seat stood ; which in Revelations is called the throne of God, and of the Lamb, ch. xxii. 1, 2.

This also is that which the prophet Zechariah means, when he says, Living waters shall go forth from Jerusalem, half of them towards the former sea, and half of them towards the hinder sea, &c. Zech. xiv. 8. They are said to go forth from Jerusalem, because they came down to the city from out of the sanctuary, which stood in Jerusalem.

This is that which in another place is called a river of water of life, because it comes from the throne, and because it was at the head of it, as I suppose, used in and about temple worship. It was with this, I think, that the molten-sea and the ten lavers were filled, and in which the priests washed their hands and feet when they went into the temple to do service ; and that also in which they washed the sacrifices before they offered them to God ; yea, I presume, all the washing and rinsings about their worship, was with this water.

This water is said in Ezekiel and Revelations to have the tree of life grow on the banks of it, Ezek. xlvii. Rev. xxii. and was a type of the

Word and Spirit of God, by which both Christ himself sanctified himself, in order to his worship, as high-priest ; and also this water is that which heals all those that shall be saved ; and by which, they being sanctified thereby also, do all their works of worship and service acceptably, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This water therefore is said to go forth into the sea, the world, and to heal its fish, the sinners therein ; yea, this is that water, of which Christ Jesus our Lord saith, whosoever shall drink thereof, shall live for ever, Ezek. xlvii. 8—10 ; Zech. xiv. 8.

CHAPTER LXV.

Of the Chains which were in the Oracle or Inner-Temple.

As there were chains on the pillars that stood before the porch of the Temple, and in the first house, so like unto them there were chains in the holiest, here called the oracle.

These chains were not chains in show, or as carved on wood, &c. but chains indeed, and that of gold ; and they were prepared to make a partition before the oracle within, 1 Kings vi. 21 ; 2 Chron. iii. 16.

I told you before, that the holiest was called the oracle ; not because in a strict sense the whole of it was so, but because such an answer of God was there, as was not in the outward

temple ; but I think that the ark and mercy-seat, was indeed more specially that called the oracle ; for there will I meet with thee, saith God ; and from above that I will commune with thee. When David said, I lift my hands towards thy holy oracle, he meant not so much towards the holiest house, as towards the mercy-seat that was therein. Or, as he said in the margin, toward the oracle of thy sanctuary, Psal. xxviii. 2.

1. When therefore he saith, before the oracle, he means, these chains were put in the most holy place, before the ark and mercy-seat, to give to Aaron and his sons to understand, that an additional glory was there ; for the ark and mercy-seat were preferred before that holy house itself, even as Christ and the grace of God is preferred before the highest heavens. The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory is above the heavens, Psalm cxiii. 4.

So then the partition that was made in this house by these chains, these golden chains, was not so much to divide the holy from the most holy, as to show, that there is in the holiest house that which is yet more worthy than it.

The holiest was a type of heaven, but the ark and mercy seat was a type of Christ, and of the mercy of God to us by him ; and I trow, any man will conclude, if he knows what he says, that the God and Christ of heaven are more excellent than the house they dwell in. Hence David said again, Whom have I in heaven but thee ? For thou art more excellent than they, Psal. lxxiii. 25.

For though that which is called heaven, would serve some ; yea, tho' God himself were out of it, yet, none but the God of heaven will satisfy a truly gracious soul. It is God that the soul of this man thirsteth for ; God, that is his exceeding joy, Psal. cxliii. 5, ch. xvii. 15, ch. xliii. 4.

These chains then, as they made this partition of the most holy place, may teach us : That when we shall be glorified in heaven, we shall yet, even then, and there, know that there will continue an infinite disproportion between God and us. The golden chains that are there, will then distinguish the Creator from the creature.

For we, even we which shall be saved, shall yet retain our own nature, and shall still continue finite beings ; yea, and shall there also see a disproportion between our Lord our head, and us : For though now we are, and also then shall be like him, as to his manhood : yea, and shall be like him also, as being glorified with his glory ; yet he shall transcend and go beyond us, as to degree and splendor, as far as ever the highest king on earth did shine above the meanest subject that dwelt in his kingdom.

Chains of old have been made use of as notes of distinction, to shew us who are bond-men, and who are free. Yea, they shall at the day of judgment be a note of distinction of good and bad ; even as here they will distinguish the heavens from God, and the creature from the Creator, 2 Pet. ii. 4 ; Jude vi. ; Matt. xxii. 13.

True, they are chains of sins and wrath, but

these, chains of gold; but these chains, even these also, will keep creatures in their place, that the Creator may have his glory, and receive those acknowledgments there from them, which is due to his majesty, Rev. iv. and ch. v. 11 to 14.

CHAPTER LXVI.

Of the High Priest and of his Office in the Inner-Temple.

WHEN things were thus ordained in the house most holy, then went the high priest in thither, according as he was appointed to do his office, which was to burn incense in his golden censer, and to sprinkle with his finger the blood of his sacrifice, for the people, upon and above the mercy-seat, Exod. xxx. 7 to 10; Lev. xvi 11 to 14.

Now for this special work of his, he had peculiar preparations.

1. He was to be washed in water.
2. Then he was to put on his holy garments.
3. After that he was to be anointed with holy oil.
4. Then an offering was to be offered for him for the further fitting of him for his office.
5. The blood of this sacrifice must be put, some of it upon his right ear, some on the thumb of his righthand, and some on the great toe of his right foot.

This done, some more of the blood, with the

anointing oil, must be sprinkled upon him, and upon his garment; for after this manner must he be consecrated to his work, as high priest, Exod. xxix.

His being washed in water, was to shew the purity of Christ's humanity.

His curious robes were a type of all the perfections of Christ's righteousness.

The holy oil that was poured on his head was to show how Christ was anointed with the Holy Ghost unto his work, as priest.

The sacrifice of his consecration was a type of that offering Christ offered in the garden, when he mixed his sweat with his own blood, and tears and cries when he prayed to him that was able to save him, and was heard in that he feared; for with his blood (as was Aaron with the blood of the bullock that was slain for him) was this blessed one besmeared from head to foot, when his sweat, as great drops or cladders of blood fell down from his head and face, and whole body, to the ground, Luke xxii. 44; Heb. x. 20.

When Aaron was thus prepared, then he offered his offering for the people, and carried the blood within the veil, Lev. xvi.

The which Christ Jesus also answered, when he offered his own body without the gate, and then carried his blood into the heavens, and sprinkled it before the mercy-seat, Heb. xiii. 11 and 12; ch. ix. 11, 12, 24.

For Aaron was a type of Christ; his offering,

a type of Christ's offering his body ; the blood of the sacrifice, a type of the blood of Christ ; his garments, a type of Christ's righteousness ; the mercy seat, a type of the throne of grace ; the incense, a type of Christ's praise ; and the sprinkling of the blood of Christ upon the mercy seat, a type of Christ's pleading the virtue of his sufferings for us in the presence of God in heaven.

Wherefore holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the apostle and high priest of our profession, Christ Jesus ; and seeing we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession, for we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities ; but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men, is ordained by men, in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins ; who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way, for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

This then is our high priest : and this was made so, not after the law of carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life ; for Aaron and his sons were made priests without an oath, but this with an oath by him that said unto him, the Lord sware, and will not repent, thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

By so much was Jesus made the surety of a better testament; and they truly were many priests because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: but this man because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come to God by him, seeing he liveth to make intercession for them.

For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; who needeth not daily, as those high priests to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people; for this he did once, when he offered up himself; for the law maketh men high priests which have infirmities; but the word of an oath which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

Now of the things which we have spoken, this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set down on the righthand of the throne of the majesty in the heavens: A minister of the sanctuary, and of the new tabernacle which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every high priest is ordained to offer sacrifices, wherefore it is of necessity, that this man have somewhat also to offer. For if he were on earth, he should not be an high priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished, when he was about to make the tabernacle. For see

saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, that is to say, not of this building, neither by the blood of bulls and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of goats, bulls, and ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works, to serve the living God.

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entered into the holiest every year with the blood of others, for then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world. But now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men, once to die, and after this the judgment, so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many, and to them that look for him, shall he appear the second time, without sin unto salvation, Heb. iii. 1, 2 ; chap. iv. 14—16 ; ch. v. 1, 2 ; ch. vii. 16 to 28 ; ch. viii. 1 to 5 ; ch. ix. 11 to 28.

CHAPTER LXVII.

Of the High Priest's going into the Holiest alone.

As it was the privilege of the high priest to go into the holiest alone, so there was something of mystery also, of which I shall speak a little : There shall, says God, be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation, when Aaron goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he comes out, and has made an atonement for himself and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel, Lev. xvi. 17, &c.

The reason is, for that Christ is mediator alone ; he trod the wine-press alone ; and of the people there was none with him to help him there, Isa. lx. 1, 3 ; 1 Tim. iii. 5.

Of the people there was none to help him to bear his cross, or in the management of the first part of his priestly office : Why then should there be any to share with him in his executing of the second part thereof ? Besides, he that helps an intercessor must himself be innocent, or in favour, upon some grounds not depending on the worth of the intercession. But as to the intercession of Christ, who can come in to help upon the account of such innocency or worth ? Not the highest angel, for there is none such but one ; wherefore he must do that alone. Hence it is said, he went in alone, is there alone, and there intercedes alone. And this is manifest, not

only in the type, Aaron, but in the anti-type, Christ Jesus, Heb. vi. 19, 20, ch. ix. 7 to 12, 23, 24.

I do not say, that there is no man in heaven but Jesus Christ ; but I say he is there to make intercession for us alone. Yea, the holy text says more. I go, saith Christ, to prepare a place for you ; and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am, there ye may be also, John xiv. 1 to 4.

This text seems to insinuate, that Christ is in the holiest or highest heavens alone ; and that he there alone must be, until he has finished his work of intercession : For not till then, he comes again to take us to himself.

Let us grant Christ the pre-eminency in this, as also in all other things, for he is intercessor for his church, and makes it for them in the holiest alone. It is said, he is the light that no man can approach.

CHAPTER LXVIII.

Of the High Priest's going in thither but once a Year.

As the high priest went into the holiest, when he thither went, alone, so to do that work, he went in thither but once a year. Thou shalt not come at all times, saith God to him, into the holy place, within the veil, before the mercy-

seat, which is upon the ark, that thou die nto, Lev. xvi. 2.

And as he was to go in thither but once a year, so not then neither, unless clothed and adorned with his Aaronical holy robes. Then he was to be clothed, as I hinted before, with the holy robes, the frontlet of gold upon his forehead, the names of the twelve tribes upon his breast, and the jingling bells upon the skirts of his garment ; nor would all this do, unless he went in thither with blood, Exod. xxviii ; Lev. xvi.

Now, this once a year, the apostles take special notice of it, and make great use of it. Once a year, saith he, this high priest went in thither, once a year ; that is to shew, that Christ should once in the end of the world, go into heaven itself, to make intercession there for us. For by this word, year, he shews the term and time of the world is meant ; and by once in that year, he means once in the end of the world.

Not, saith he, that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entered into the holy place every year, with the blood of others, for then must he often have suffered, since the foundation of the world. But now, once in the end of the world, hath he appeared to put away sin, by the sacrifice of himself, Heb. ix.

And having thus once offered his sacrifice without the veil, he is now gone into the holiest, to perfect his work of mediation for us. Not into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true, but into heaven

itself ; now appearing in the presence of God for us.

Now, if our Lord Jesus is gone indeed, now to appear in the presence of God, for us, and if this now, be the once-a-year, that the type speaks of, the once in the end of the world, as our apostle says : then it follows, that the people of God should all stand waiting for his benediction, that to them he shall bring with him, when he shall return from thence. Wherefore he adds, Christ was once offered to bury the sins of many ; and to them that look for him, shall he appear the second time, without sin unto salvation.

This therefore shews us the greatness of the work that Christ has to do at the right hand of God, for that he stays there so long. He accomplished all the first part of his priesthood in less than forty years, if you take in the making of his holy garments and all ; but about this second part thereof, he has been above in heaven, above sixteen hundred years, and yet has not done.

This therefore calls for faith and patience in saints, and by this he also tries the world ; so that they in mocking manner begin to say already, where is the promise of his coming ? 2 Pet. iii. 4. But I say again, we must look and wait.

If the people waited for Zecharias, and wondered that he stayed so long, because he stayed in the holy place somewhat longer than they expected, no marvel, if the faith of the world about Christ's coming is fled and gone long ago ;

yea, and that the children also are put to wait, since a scripture little while doth prove so long; for that which the apostle saith, yet a little while, doth prove to some to be a very long little, John xvi. ; Heb. x. 37.

True, Zecharias had then to do with angels, and that made him stay so long. O, but Jesus is with God, before him, in his presence, talking with him, swallowed up in him, and with his glory, and that is one cause he stays so long. He is there also pleading his blood for his tempted ones, and interceding for all his elect, and waits there till all his be fitted for, and ready to enter into glory : I say, he is there, and there must be till then : and this is another reason why he doth stay, the time we count so long.

And indeed it is a wonder to me, that Jesus Christ our Lord should once think now he is there, of returning hither again, considering the ill-treatment he met with here before. But what will not love do ? Surely he would never touch the ground again, had he not a people here that cannot be made perfect, but by his coming to them. He also is made judge of quick and dead, and will get him glory in the ruin of them that hate him.

His people are as himself to him. Can a loving husband abide to be always from a beloved spouse ? Besides, as I said, he is to pay the wicked off, for all their wickedness, and that in that very place where they have committed it. Wherefore the day appointed for this is set, and he will, and shall come quickly to do it.

For, however the time may seem long to us, yet according to the reckoning of God, it is but a little while since he went into the holiest to intercede. A thousand years with the Lord is but as one day ; and after this manner of counting, he has not been gone yet full two days into the holiest. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness ; he will come quickly, and will not tarry, 2 Pet. iii ; Heb. x. 37.

CHAPTER LXIX.

Of the Cherubims, and of their being placed over the Mercy Seat in the Inner Temple.

THERE WERE also cherubims in the most holy place, and they were set on high above the mercy seat. See 1 Kings vi. 23—28.

1. These are called by the apostles, the cherubims of glory covering the mercy seat, Heb. ix. 5.

2. These cherubims were figures of the angels of God, as in other places we have proved.

3. It is said, these cherubims were made of image work, and that in such manner, as that they could, as some think, move their wings by art. Wherefore it is said, they stretched forth their wings ; the wings of the cherubims spread forth themselves, and that the cherubims spread their wings over the place of the ark, and the

staves thereof above, 1 Kings vi. 27 ; 2 Chron. ii. 13, ch. v. 8.

4. I read also of those cherubims, that they had chariots and wheels ; by which is taught us how ready and willing the angels are to fetch us when commanded, unto the paradise of God ; for these chariots were types of the bosoms of the angels, and these wheels, of the quickness of their motion to come for us when sent. The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels ; the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place, 1 Chron. xx. 28 ; Ezek. xvi. 9, 15—19, 28 ; 1 Kings vi. 17 ; Psal. lxxviii. 17 ; 2 Kings ii. 11 ; Dan. ix. 20.

5. What difference, if any there is, between cherubims and seraphims, into that I shall not now enquire ; though I believe that there are as divers orders and degrees of angels in the heavens, as there are degrees and divers orders among men in the world. But that these cherubims were figures of the holy angels, their being thus placed in the holy oracle, doth declare, for their dwelling place is heaven, though they for our sakes, are conversant to the world, Heb. i.

6. It is said, that these cherubims in this holy place did stand upon their feet. To shew,

1. That the angels of heaven are not fallen from their stations, as the other angels are.

2. To shew also, that they are always ready at God's bidding, to run with swiftness to do his pleasure.

3. To shew also, that they shall continue in

their station, being therein confirmed by Jesus Christ, by whom all things consist, Col. i.

7. It is said, there faces were inward, looking one to another, yet withal, somewhat ascending; to shew that the angels doth behold and wonder at the mysteries of grace, as it is displayed to usward from off the mercy seat. The faces of the cherubims shall look one to another; towards the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be, Exod. xxv. 20; 2 Chron. iii. 13; 1 Pet. i. 12; Eph. iii. 10.

1. Towards the mercy seat: they are desirous to see it, and how from thence (I say,) mercy doth look towards us.

2. They look one towards another, to shew that they agree to rejoice in the salvation of our souls, Luke xv. 10.

3. They are said to stand above the mercy-seat, (perhaps) to shew, that the angels have not need of those acts of mercy and forgiveness, as we have, who stand below, and are sinners. They stand above it, they are holy. I do not say, that they have no need that the goodness of God should be extended to them, for it is by that they have been, and are preserved; but they need not be forgiven, for they have committed no iniquity.

They stand there also with wings stretched out, to shew how ready, if need be, the angels are to come from heaven, to preach the gospel to the world, Luke ii. 9—14.

4. It is said, in this their thus standing, their wings did reach from wall to wall, from one side

of this holy house to the other ; to shew, that all the angels within the boundaries of the heavens, with one consent, and one mind, are ready to come down to help, and serve, and do for God's elect at his command.

It is said also, that their wings are stretched on high, to shew, that they are delighted in those duties which are enjoined them by the high and lofty One, and not inclined, no, not to serve the saints, in their sensual or fleshly designs. It may be also to shew, that they are willing to take their flight from one end of the heaven to the other, to serve God and his church for good, Matt. xiii. 41, 49, ch. xxiv. 31, ch. xxv. 31, 2 Thess. i. 7, 8.

CHAPTER LXX.

Of the Figures that were upon the Wall of the Inner Temple.

THE wall of the inner temple, which was a type of heaven, was, I have already told you, ceiled with cedar from the bottom to top. Now, by the vision of Ezekiel, it is said, this wall was carved with cherubims and palm trees ; so that a palm tree was between a cherub, and every cherub had two faces ; so the face of a man was towards the palm tree on one side, and the face of a young lion towards the palm tree on the other side. It was made through all the house round about, from the ground to above the door.

where the cherubims and palm trees were made, Ezek. xli. 17—20.

1. As to these cherubims and palm trees, I have already told you what I think them to be figures of. The cherubims are figures of the holy angels, and the palm trees of upright ones. We therefore here are to discourse only of the placing of them in the heavens.

2. Now you see the palm trees in the holiest are placed between a cherub, and a cherub, round about the house ; which methinks should be to signify, that the saints shall not there live by faith and hope, as here, but in the immediate enjoyment of God ; for to be placed between the cherubims, is to be placed where God dwells : for holy writ says plainly, he dwells between the cherubims ; even where, here it is said these palm trees, or upright ones are placed, 1 Sam. iv. 4 ; 2 Kings xix. 15 ; 1 Chron xiii. 6 ; Psal. lxxx. 1 ; Isa. xxxvii. 16.

The church on earth is called God's house, and he will dwell in it forever ; and heaven itself is called God's house, and we shall dwell in it for ever, and that between the cherubims. This is more than grace ; this is grace and glory, glory indeed.

3. To dwell between the cherubims, may also be to shew, that there we shall be equal to the angels. Mark ; here is a palm tree and a cherub. Here we are a little lower, but there we shall not be a whit behind the very chief of them. A palm tree and a cherub, an upright one between the cherubs, will then be round about

the house ; we shall be placed in the same rank, neither can they die any more, for they are equal to the angels, Luke xx. 36.

4. The palm trees thus placed, may be also to shew us that the elect of God shall there take up the vacancies of the fallen angels : they for sin were cast down from the holy heavens, and we by grace shall be caught up thither, and be placed between a cherub and a cherub. When I say, their places, I do not mean the fickleness of that state, that they, for want of electing love, did stand in, while in glory ; for the heavens by the blood of Christ, is now to us become a purchased possession : wherefore, as we shall have their place in the heavenly kingdom, so by virtue of his redeeming blood, we shall there abide, and go no more out ; for by that means that kingdom will stand to us unshaken, Heb. ix. 12, ch. xii. 22—28 ; Rev. iii. 12.

5. These palm trees, I say, seem to take their places, who for sin were cast from thence. The elect therefore take that place in possession, but a better crown forever. Thus Israel possessed that of the Canaanites ; and David, Saul's kingdom ; and Matthias the apostleship of Judas, Acts i. 20—26,

6. Nor were the habitations which the fallen angels lost, excepting that which was excepted before, at all inferior to theirs that stood ; for their captain and prince is called son of the morning, for he was the anti-type there, Isa. xiv. 12.

7. Thus you see they were placed from the ground up to above the door ; that is, from the lowest to the highest angel there. For as there are great saints and small ones in the church on earth, so there are angels of divers degrees in heaven, some greater than others ; but the smallest saint, when he gets to heaven, shall have an angels dignity, an angels place ; from the ground you find a palm tree between a cherub and a cherub.

And every cherub had two faces : so here. But I read in chap. x, that they had four faces a-piece ; the first, was a face of a cherubim ; the second, the face of a man ; the third, the face of a lion ; and the fourth, the face of an eagle.

They had two faces a-piece, not to shew that they were of a double heart, for their appearance and themselves was the same, and they went every one straight forward, Ezek. x. 22.

These two faces then was to shew here the quickness of their apprehension, and their terribleness to execute the mind of God. The face of man, signifies them masters of reason ; the face of a lion, the terribleness of their presence, 1 Cor. xiii. 12 ; Judges xiii. 6.

In another place I read of their wheels ; yea that themselves, their whole bodies, their backs, their hands, their wings, and their wheels were full of eyes round about, Ezek. i. 18, ch. x. 12.

And this is to shew us how knowing and quick-sighted they are in all providences and dark dispensations, and how nimble in apprehending the mischievous designs of the enemies of God's

church, and so how able they are to undermine them ; and forasmuch also as they have the face of a lion, we by that are shewed how full of power they are to kill and to destroy, when God says, go forth and do so.

Now with these we must dwell and co-habit, a palm tree and a cherub ; a palm tree and a cherub must be from the ground to above the door, round about the house, the heavens.

So that the face of a man was towards the palm tree on the one side, and the face of a young lion towards the palm tree on the other side.

By these two faces may be also shewed, that we in the heavens shall have glory sufficient to familiarize us to the angels. Their lion-like looks, with which they used to fright the biggest saint on earth, as you have it, Gen. xxxii. 30, Judges xiii. 22, shall then be accompanied with the familiar looks of a man. Then angels and men shall be fellows, and have to do with each as such.

Thus you see something of that little I have found in the temple of God.

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